Military admits Abu beheading video a rerun

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IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

- Will Smith takes on Muhammad Ali
- Sheila Francisco garners glowing review in London
- Robert Seña is happy to be home

SMITH

CHINOOK DOWN

US chopper crashes; 3 bodies found, 7 missing

By Alex Pal
and Nestor Ramirez
PDI Visayas Bureau
and PDI Mindanao Bureau

SIATON, Negros Oriental—"I thought a star had fallen into the sea," said a fisherman who saw the crash of a Chinook helicopter carrying 10 American soldiers off Negros Oriental at dawn yesterday.

"At first, I saw a strong beam of light from the east, which could have come from a searchlight. The light kept descending. Then it turned into a huge ball of fire," said Ricardo Zamora, skipper of fishing boat Neil Nazareth.

The crash inflicted US Special Forces their first casualties in the Philippines even as they train Filipino soldiers to crush Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

The military helicopter was on its way back to Mactan Air Base from Basilan after ferrying US Special Forces troops and supplies. It crashed at 2:30 a.m. about 5.2 nautical miles from Apo Island, or 20 nautical miles south of Dumaguete City. The area is shark-infested, according to fishermen.

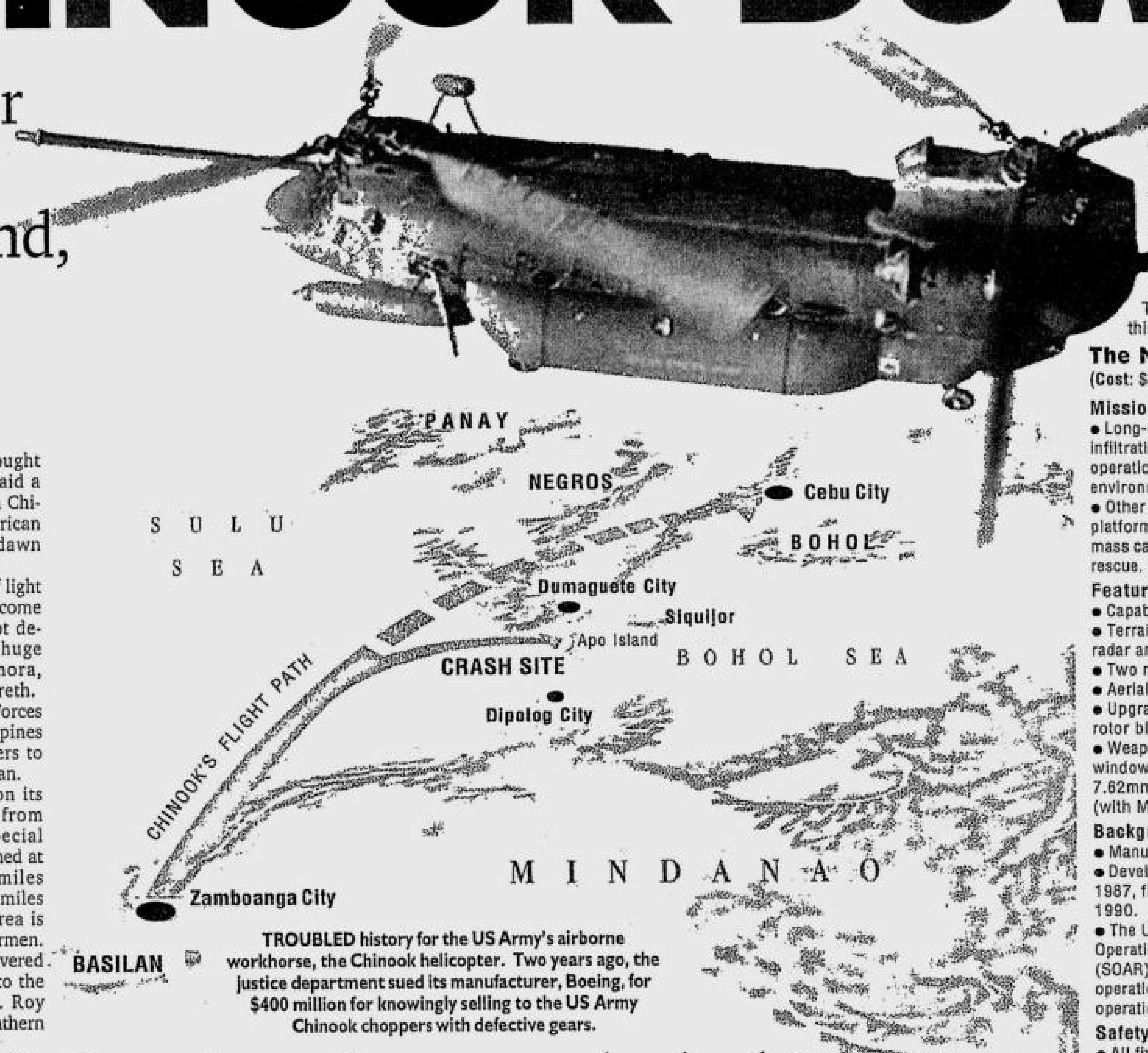
At least three bodies were recovered from the crash site and brought to the Mactan Air Base, said Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the military's Southern Command, before noon.

"We have recovered three bodies with no survivors so far," US Special Forces Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster said at a news conference in Zamboanga City.

"Seven are still unaccounted for. We are still hoping that they are still alive," said Wurster, overall commander of the 660 US troops deployed in the Balikatan joint military exercises.

Maj. Cynthia Teramae, spokesperson of the US Pacific Command, said the names of the US servicemen aboard the helicopter would be made avail-

CHINOOK/A17



TROUBLED history for the US Army's airborne workhorse, the Chinook helicopter. Two years ago, the justice department sued its manufacturer, Boeing, for $400 million for knowingly selling to the US Army Chinook choppers with defective gears.

What's a Chinook?

SINCE 1969, it has been the policy of the US Army to name its aircraft after American Indian tribes. The Chinook tribe survives to this day.

The MH-47E Chinook
(Cost: $30M apiece)

Mission
- Long-range, overt and covert infiltration, air assault, re-supply operations over a wide range of environmental conditions.
- Other operations: shipboard, platform, urban, water, parachute, mass casualty, combat search and rescue.

Features
- Capable of operating at night.
- Terrain mapping and following radar and color weather radar.
- Two main displays for pilots.
- Aerial refueling.
- Upgraded engines and foldable rotor blades.
- Weapons stations: left forward window and right cabin door (with 7.62mm mini-guns) and at the ramp (with M60D 7.62 machine gun).

Background
- Manufactured by Boeing.
- Development started in December 1987, first prototype tested in May 1990.
- The US Army 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR), which specializes in night operations, received the first operational MH-47E in January 1994.

Safety record
- All five crewmembers killed in a crash near Tennessee in March 1996.
- 14 US soldiers killed in a crash in Afghanistan last month.
- In August 1999, the US Army grounded Chinook choppers, including the MH-47E, after the discovery of cracked transmission gears in a CH-47D. Normal operations resumed after a worldwide inspection.

PDI RESEARCH

INQUIRERGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO / L. A.VILLARIBA

Search and rescue cloaked in secrecy

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Everything was shrouded in a cloak of secrecy.

No military official in Central Visayas would release information where the bodies of the three American soldiers killed in the Chinook helicopter crash were taken.

Either they were not authorized to say anything or they themselves were not informed about it by the American troops who recovered their comrades from the shark-infested waters off Apo Island.

Capt. Enrico Canaya, Tactical Operations Command spokesperson, declined to issue a statement, saying he was given specific instructions not to say anything.

But Canaya admitted they were not given regular updates by their American counterparts. Some of the updates will have to come from the Defense Department in Washington, he said.

Canaya told TV Patrol-Cebu that they were dependent on information given by US Air Force officials.

SEARCH/A17

Kidnapped US journalist is dead

Gruesome execution shown on videotape

KARACHI—American journalist Daniel Pearl, kidnapped in Pakistan while trying to make contact with Islamic radical groups, was murdered by his captors who recorded his death on videotape, US and Pakistani officials said on Friday.

Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, who has rallied to the US-led war on terrorism and cracked down on Islamic radicals, denounced the murder as gruesome and ordered a nationwide manhunt for any suspects still at large.

President George W. Bush, speaking during a visit to China, called the killing of the 38-year-old Wall Street Journal reporter a "criminal, barbaric" act. Pearl's family said it was a "senseless murder" that had silenced "a gentle soul."

The Washington Post said Pearl, abducted in Karachi on Jan. 23, had his throat slit with a knife in a tape that was sent to Pakistan and US authorities.

A Pakistani source, who is close to the investigation, told Reuters the video was short and showed Pearl's throat being cut.

"The scene that apparently confirmed the murder of Pearl was when one person's hand cut the US reporter's neck with a sharp tool," the source, quoting someone who had seen the tape, said.

The source added that the tape showed the hands of two or three other people.

Pearl, whose body has not been found, disappeared in Karachi as he tried to make contact with Islamic radical groups and investigate possible

KIDNAPPED/A16

DANIEL PEARL, Wall Street Journal bureau chief: Barbaric, senseless murder of "a gentle soul." REUTERS

Crash raises questions of VFA violations

By Christine Avendaño
and Juliet L. Javellana

DID the flight of the Chinook helicopter violate provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement?

The VFA provides that all training missions be bilateral, which means that there should be both American and Filipino participants in the exercise, some members of the House of Representatives pointed out.

Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza pointed out for instance that there were no Fili-

CRASH/A17

Age no barrier to sex, oldies say

KAYA MO PA DUDE?
KAYA PA...BABE!

LONDON—If you thought sagging hips, gray hair and wrinkles were sure to extinguish passion's flame, think again.

Age is no barrier to an active sex life and the over-40s are having as much fun in bed as their younger counterparts, according to a survey published by Pfizer, which makes drugs including the impotence treatment

AGE/A16

FALL OF JOSEPH ESTRADA

'Why don't we take power ourselves?'

THE FALL OF JOSEPH ESTRADA
The Inside Story

(Editor's Note: To mark the launch of the "Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story" by Amando Doronila, INQUIRER columnist and editorial consultant, and to celebrate the 16th anniversary of People Power I, the INQUIRER is publishing excerpts from the definitive work on People Power II. The book is now available in all National Bookstore outlets.)

By Amando Doronila

UNKNOWN to many . . . the façade of (military) solidarity concealed a struggle inside the military high command itself even after the (Jan. 19, 2001) defection (of the top brass) had been announced. It also masked conspiracies, separate but all aimed at removing the President (Joseph Estrada).

A group of senior generals twice tried to persuade (Armed Forces Chief of Staff Angelo) Reyes to reverse his decision to defect and instead form a military junta that would seize power, according to a witness.

The first attempt came in the evening of Jan. 19, when (Air Force chief) General (Benjamin) Defensor rang, asking for a meeting with Reyes, while he was having dinner with retired Gen. Felix Dueñas, a Reyes confidante, and Col. Victor Corpus, Reyes' chief of staff. "Why too late?" Reyes asked the generals.

Nonetheless, they came to the "White House," Reyes' residence at Camp Aguinaldo. General Defensor brought with him (Rear) Admiral (Guillermo) Wong, Gen. Jose Calimlim, and Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, commander of the Southern Command. All belong to Class '69 of the Philippine Military Academy, except Calimlim (Class '68). They arrived at around half past 12 midnight. A witness, whose identity cannot yet be revealed, has this account:

The generals asked for a private meeting. They went to the den. Dueñas and Corpus walked into the den to take leave. When they entered, Defensor was

WHY/A16

Second FRONT PAGE

Military admits Abu video a re-run

By Martin P. Marfil

ACTING to blunt outraged public reaction to the controversial television videotapes of gruesome beheadings, military and defense officials yesterday maintained that the deeds depicted in the films were the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf and not the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

They denied having deceived President Macapagal-Arroyo about the content of the videos which showed captured soldiers being beheaded.

The political opposition has claimed that the videos recently shown in various television news programs had been recycled from defense department archives and that the group involved were MILF guerrillas and not Abu Sayyaf bandits.

The opposition claimed that the film had been shown at a briefing for ousted ex-president Estrada and Catholic bishops in June 2000 conducted by then Chief of Staff, and now Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, and other top military officials.

At a press conference yesterday, Reyes admitted that the footage was indeed the same as that shown to the Catholic bishops but denied that it had been done to drum up support for the "all-out war" against the MILF.

"It's not true that I deceived anybody into believing that the MILF was the one who was committing atrocities so that the campaign could be launched," Reyes added.

He said the military campaign against the MILF was in its final phase at the time, having been started months before in March.

He said the footage had been shown as part of a briefing on the peace and order situation in Mindanao. The MILF had been mention in the first part of the briefing, he said.

Reyes said that during the presentation, the military had clearly identified the Abu Sayyaf as the ones doing the beheading, and not the MILF.

He presented Army Maj. Cirilito Sobejana, a former Army Scout Ranger operative who figured in a series of encounters with the Abu Sayyaf shown in the videotape.

"I recognize many of them (Abu Sayyaf members), including some of the soldiers they captured and later beheaded," Sobejana, a Medal of Valor awardee said.

"Some of the victims (soldiers) were even my friends," Sobejana said.

Military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan largely supported Reyes but appeared unsure about whether it was the same videotape.

"I'm not sure if it's the same tape . . . But one thing is sure, these are Abu Sayyaf . . . There was no MILF in Basilan in 1995, it was the Abu Sayyaf," Adan said.

Military and defense officials differed at least on one point—when the footage was recovered.

Adan had said on Tuesday that the video was only being shown now because government troops had recovered it during an operation last year.

But yesterday Reyes said that the tape was obtained by military intelligence agents from an overseas worker in Saudi Arabia in 1998.

He said the Abu Sayyaf had filmed the atrocities to raise funds and generate support from foreign countries.

Malacañang yesterday said it was leaving it up to the television networks to decide whether to continue airing the controversial videotapes in the interest of transparency.

"We try to make available all information to help the people decide whether a particular policy is correct or not," Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Tiglao noted that on previous occasions, TV networks have used footage of the Abu Sayyaf raising their rifles as if they were "brave guerrillas, mujahideens."

"That's what sticks in the minds of the people. Now it has been shown how brutal they are, there is a change of public perception of the Abu Sayyaf," Tiglao said. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo and Rocky Nazareno***

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Zambo bishop backs public broadcast of beheading video

By Armand N. Nocum

A MINDANAO based bishop yesterday said he favored the public broadcast of the controversial video footage depicting captured government soldiers being beheaded or hacked to death by Abu Sayyaf bandits and admitted having viewed the tape.

"I saw a video footage of that in 2000. I was told they were the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf," Bishop Antonio Ledesma, head of the diocese of Ipil in Zamboanga Sibugay province, told reporters in a telephone interview.

He declined to say who showed him the video.

"People have the right to know how the Abu Sayyaf punishes their hostages," he said, but quickly added that he was expressing his personal views because he has yet to discuss the matter with Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president Archbishop Orlando Quevedo.

Other Church leaders declined to be drawn into the spiraling controversy over the controversial showing of the tape.

Quevedo, who also reportedly saw the video footage which opposition lawmakers claim depicted MILF, and not Abu Sayyaf, atrocities continued to evade reporters yesterday.

Quevedo flew into Manila Thursday night, but declined to answer the written questionnaire earlier sent to him in Cotabato.

CBCP officials said he was in Tagaytay and claimed to have no way of contacting him. They did not also know what part of Tagaytay he had gone to.

Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday said he had no knowledge of the video footage.

"I am not aware of any meeting where the Abu Sayyaf video footage was shown to the bishops. If ever there was such meeting, I was not present," he said in a statement.

But Archbishop Oscar Cruz, the head of the Lingayen-Dagupan archdiocese and a former CBCP president, was unequivocal in his condemnation of the government and the media for their "imprudence" in airing the video.

He castigated the government for using the media to push its agenda of trying to win over opponents of the ongoing RP-US Balikatan training exercise in Mindanao.

Cruz said that if the government's objective was to prevent violence, "they only succeeded in enhancing it."

"They wanted us to hate the Abu Sayyaf? But who loves the Abu Sayyaf? That group beheading people is no longer news. They have been doing that for a long time. Showing the video did not make us hate them because we already hate them," Cruz said.

And if the objective was to win people's support for the Balikatan exercise, this also "failed because those against the Balikatan are still against it while those for the exercise are still for it."

Cruz, who was CBCP president from 1995 to 1999, said he was certain that no such video was shown during his tenure.

He said ousted ex-president Estrada had sent word, on two occasions, that he wanted to meet with the bishops, but "our schedule was too tight and we could not accommodate him."

Not that he would have wanted to view the tape, Cruz said. ***With Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Immediate immunity for 'berdugo' ruled out

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez has ruled out the immediate grant of criminal immunity to a man who claims to have been forced by Abu Sayyaf bandits to decapitate a soldier.

But Perez said the man who introduced himself as "Jun" could be exonerated of any criminal liability if he could prove that he was indeed forced by the bandits to carry out the detestable deed.

In an interview over GMA 7 on Wednesday, Jun narrated how he and four other men were abducted by the bandits on Nov. 14, 1994 at Barangay Tablon in Sumisip town in Basilan.

The five were brought before Abu Sayyaf leader Abdurajak Abubakar Janjalani, but were freed in Patikul, Sulu, in March 1995.

Police yesterday brought Jun before Zamboanga City state prosecutors to determine if he could be held criminally liable for the beheading of the Abu Sayyaf captives, Philippine National Police Chief Leandro Mendoza said.

The PNP chief said Jun would have to go through polygraph and psychiatric tests to determine if he's telling the truth.

"His statement that he was a kidnap victim is still being verified. His statement that he was forced to behead one of the prisoners is also being verified. Even his identity is being verified," Mendoza said.

Mendoza said Jun could be held criminally liable.

"He's really liable because that's murder. He has a liability there, but he can be a state witness," Mendoza told reporters.

Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the PNP has yet to determine the veracity of Jun's claim that he was a hostage as it may also be possible that he was a member of the Abu Sayyaf.

"The third possibility is that he is a crackpot," Tiglao said.

Perez said Jun could invoke a "justifying or exempting circumstance" to quash his criminal liability once he is charged in court. ***With a report from TJ Burgonio and Carlito Pablo***

Erratum

In the **Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System 124th Founding Anniversary Special Project** which appeared on pages **B4 and B5** of the Inquirer on **Feb. 15, 2002**, the headline of the story on page B5 should have read "An engineer's lifetime affair with water."

We deeply regret the error and extend our sincerest apologies to the **MWSS** and to **Administrator Orlando C. Hondrade** for the oversight.

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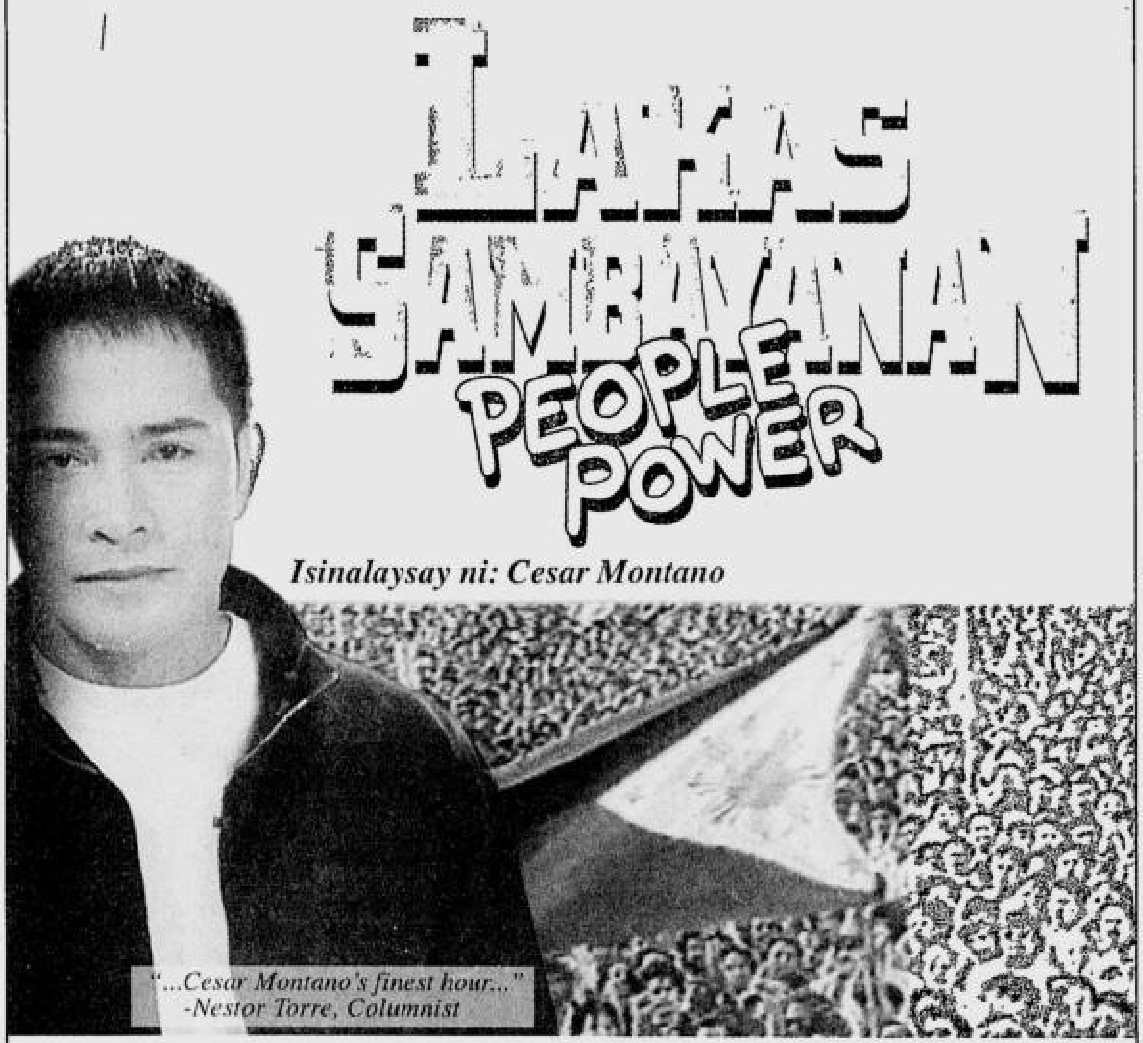
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Pentagon, Malacañang mum on spy flights over Basilan

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon said Thursday it was sharing information with the Philippine government but would not comment on a report that it has begun surveillance flights over the southern Philippines to gather intelligence against the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas.

"What we are doing in the Philippines has been spelled out to the Philippines government," said Navy Lieutenant Commander Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesperson.

"We share information with allies, but we can't talk about the specifics of sensitive surveillance flights," he said.

He added that information sharing with the Philippines government predated the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Malacañang yesterday echoed the Pentagon line, saying the government will neither confirm nor deny US spy plane flights over Basilan where Abu Sayyaf is holding hostage an American missionary couple and a Filipina nurse.

"We cannot confirm nor deny these flights," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said in a phone interview.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that the United States has begun surveillance flights in the South to gather intelligence against the Abu Sayyaf.

"We cannot comment on intelligence operations," Tiglao said in his regular press briefing.

But Tiglao said that if there were indeed spy flights over Basilan, these operations had the approval of appropriate Philippine government agencies.

"Any surveillance flights are duly cleared by the Department of Foreign Affairs which transmits authority to allow them to the Air Transportation Office," Tiglao said.

The Washington Post said the surveillance flights were conducted by US Navy and Air Force spy planes from American bases in Okinawa, Japan, and other airfields in Asia.

The flights are meant to complement the US military presence in the Philippines, which will grow to 660 troops in the coming months.

The spy planes feature high-tech equipment and night sensors whose imaging systems can penetrate through dense jungle canopies.

Information gathered from these flights are intended to be used to "jolt" the Abu Sayyaf sometime in April when the Balikatan 02-1 war games are in full swing.

The US military has not fully determined yet what types of surveillance aircraft to deploy, the official said.

"We're looking at various sensors on various platforms. We're still sorting it out," he said.

Other officials said it was possible the Philippines might allow the US aircraft to land and refuel at the Mactan Air Base in Cebu.

On Thursday, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said that Americans participating in Balikatan 02-1 could conduct night flights as part of the training program for Filipino pilots.

Golez also said that night sensors will be placed on board aircraft conducting night flights over Basilan.

Golez said pilots can call in strikes if they spot the Abu Sayyaf during these flights. ***Reports from Carlito Pablo, AFP***

Most-wanted killer from RP arrested in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR—A hired killer high on the Philippines most-wanted list has been arrested in Malaysia and is expected to be deported, a senior police official said Friday.

Noel Nericueco, 39, is the alleged leader of a Manila-based gang which carried out several contract killings over the past decade. He fled the Philippines three years ago.

Malaysian police arrested Nericueco in the northern state of Penang on Monday for allegedly cheating Japanese tourists in high-stakes card games worth more than half a million ringgit ($131,000), Mustafa Abdullah, a senior police official, told AP.

"We have contacted the Philippine police, who are very keen to take custody of Noel," Mustafa said. "We expect to begin the extradition process once our own investigations are completed."

Mustafa said that besides the alleged gambling fraud, police would investigate whether Nericueco was involved in any killings in Malaysia.

A spokesperson at the Philippine Embassy said that Nericueco was "high" on the Philippines most-wanted list.

"We are trying to get an update, but Nericueco is wanted for at least three murders and several other homicides and attempted murders," the spokesperson said on condition of anonymity.

Most of Nericueco's alleged crimes were committed in Pampanga province in Central Luzon.

Malaysian police said Nericueco was a former Army commando and had eluded arrest in Japan, Hong Kong and Vietnam in the past three years. It was not immediately known if he was wanted for crimes in any of those countries. ***AP***

GMA pays 'special' tribute to RAM members

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IT IS Lent after all, that is why President Macapagal-Arroyo might be in a forgiving mood.

Yesterday, the President kicked off the weeklong celebration of the 16th anniversary of People Power I by paying tribute to former rebel soldiers.

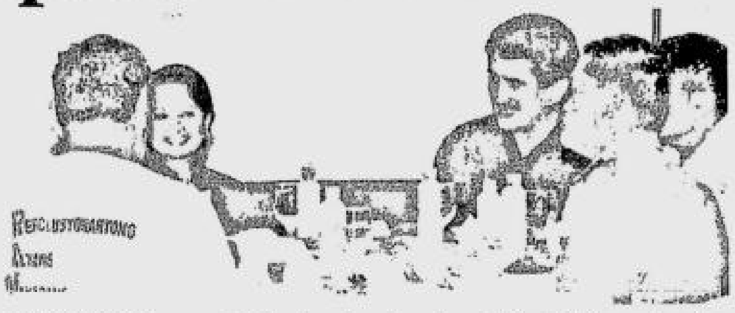
For the first time since the 1986 uprising against the Marcos dictatorship, the President included the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM) in the anniversary program.

RAM, which had stood for Reform the Armed Forces Movement during the latter martial law years, launched several coup attempts against the succeeding Corazon Aquino administration.

The members of the activist organization were granted amnesty by President Fidel V. Ramos, himself a retired general, in 1995.

Last year, however, the group's name came up in connection with coup rumors against the fledgling Macapagal administration.

But yesterday, the President appeared to let bygones be bygones. She graced RAM's "grand fellowship" at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.



PRESIDENT Macapagal attends a luncheon hosted by RAM members in Camp Aguinaldo. Sharing the table with GMA are Sen. Gregorio Honasan, Danny Lim (partly hidden), Armed Force chief Gen. Deomedio Villanueva, and Proceso Maligalig. EDWIN BACASMAS

After shaking hands with as many RAM members as possible, she sat down to a lunch of chicken and rice with group founders Danny Lim, Abraham Purugganan, Proceso Maligalig, Hernani Figueroa and Domingo Calajate.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, another RAM "original," arrived several minutes later. He was applauded as he bussed the President on the cheek and sat down beside her.

RAM officials Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya and Romy Lim were also present.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, AFP chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and Defense Undersecretary Ric Blancaflor arrived with the President.

"Today, for the first time, we give special recognition to . . . RAM and other military organizations.

"On behalf of our people, I want to thank you for your contributions to Edsa I and II," Ms Macapagal said in Filipino in an impromptu speech.

She did not dwell on the RAM's rebel past and the recent coup rumors. "You are out in the sunlight," she told them.

"Even if we went our separate ways after Edsa I, we reconciled during Edsa II. And we did not really separate after Edsa II," she said.

She also did not mention Honasan's alleged role in the May 1, 2001 siege of Malacañang by the masses supposedly loyal to deposed President Joseph Estrada. The police and military were able to put down that mini uprising in one day.

At 7:30 a.m. yesterday, the President laid a wreath at the Libingan ng mga Bayani at Fort Bonifacio to honor those who participated in the four-day event that came to be known as Edsa or People Power I.

She also paid tribute to former President Fidel V. Ramos, who played a big role in the uprising.

Ramos, then AFP vice chief of staff, and then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, had openly defied Marcos, thus setting off the chain of events that eventually led to the restoration of democracy in the country.

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HK court finds Marcos 'son' guilty of fraud: He tried to withdraw $90B

HONG KONG—A man who claims to be the son of the late Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos has been found guilty of fraud in trying to withdraw $90 billion from a bank, a report said Friday.

Deputy judge Julia Livesey Thursday convicted Tiburcio Villamor Tan Marcos, 53, of all charges, including using a copy of a false instrument and breaching his conditions of stay.

She said the prosecution had proved beyond reasonable doubt that the accused had used false documents to get the money from an account at the HSBC bank which did not exist.

Livesey was cited by the South China Morning Post as saying the accused was "totally unreliable and dishonest," but she did not make any finding on his claim to be a son of the late Philippine president.

The court heard Marcos had instructed two men—Karsten Kenntoff and George Lipp—to arrange a meeting with the HSBC chair in March last year to arrange a withdrawal from a "secret account."

Documents including an insurance certificate for $54 billion and a custodial safekeeping receipt for $36 billion were faxed to HSBC to facilitate the request, but bank staff said the documents were bogus, the court was told.

Marcos arrived in Hong Kong on Feb. 19 last year and was allowed to stay until March 19. He was arrested on March 31.

Livesey said she would call for a psychiatric report on Marcos before sentencing him on March 7.

President Marcos was deposed in a popular revolt in 1986 and died in exile in Hawaii in 1989. The Presidential Commission on Good Government has been searching for years to recover the billions of dollars that Marcos allegedly stole during his 20-year rule. ***AFP***

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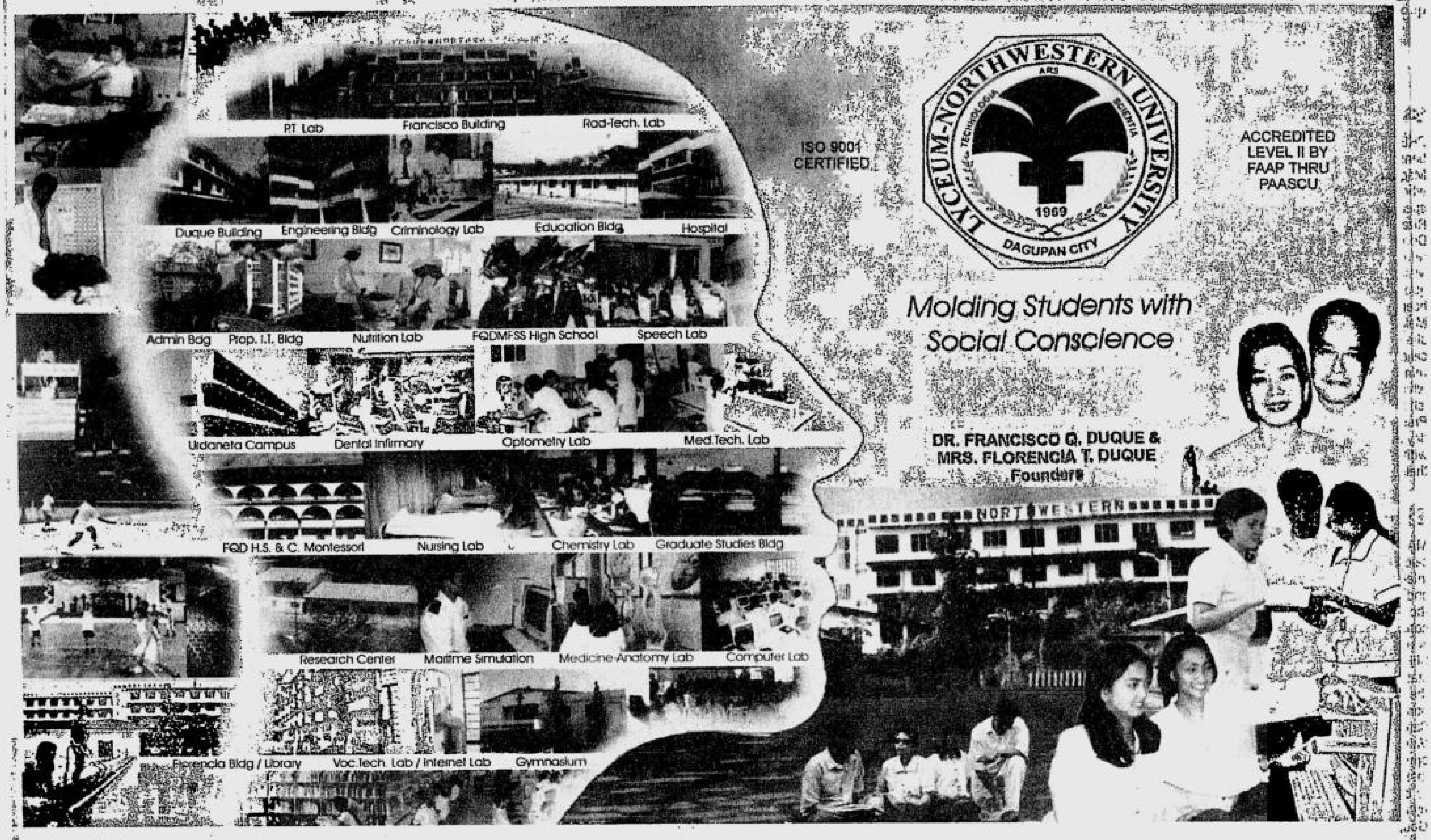
February 19 to 23, 2002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PART I - Thanksgiving Mass ......Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz, D.D.

PART II - Conferment & Investiture Ceremonies

Processional
Entrance of Lyceum-Northwestern Colors & the National Color
1. Pambansang Awit .... L-NU Symphonic Choir
2. Doxology .... L-NU Symphonic Choir
3. Welcome Address........ Dr. Francisco T. Duque III
Member, Board of Trustees

4. Reading of the CHED Grant of University Status to Lyceum-Northwestern... Hon. Ester Albano Garcia
Chairman, CHED

5. Lowering of the LN Color & Raising of the Colleges Colors and the L-NU Color....... L-NU Hymn by Symphonic Choir

6. Reading of the Board Resolution appointing the L-NU President............ Dr. Nieva Duque Salva
Chairman, Board of Trustees

7. Oath of Office of the L-NU President .... Hon. Ester Albano Garcia
Chairman, CHED

8. Presentation of the Academic Collar........... **H.E. GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**
To be assisted by .... Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.
Dr. Luz Duque-Hammershaimb

9. Presentation of the University Mace........... **H.E. GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**
To be assisted by........ Mr. Cesar T. Duque
Dr. Grace Duque Dizon
Atty. Leonardo Seguion Reyna

10. Inaugural Address....... Atty. Gonzalo T. Duque
L-NU President

11. Introduction of the Guest of Honor & Speaker .... Hon. Ester Albano Garcia
Chairman, CHED

12. Message .... **H.E. GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**
President, Republic of the Philippines

13. Recessional

Part III - Unveiling of Lyceum-Northwestern University Marker

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MANILA

MESSAGE

My warmest felicitations to the officers, faculty and staff of the **Lyceum-Northwestern University** on their *University Week* and *Investiture Program*.

The twenty-first century is the era of information and fast-emerging technologies. Economic prosperity is determined more and more by the ability of a nation to harness and develop the intellectual resources of its people.

In this regard the Lyceum-Northwestern University has rendered invaluable contributions to national development through the tutelage they provide our youth. By equipping your students with the right values and skills, you give them the means to overcome today's daunting challenges. I hope this event will inspire the people of Lyceum-Northwestern University to remain committed at providing quality education.

We look forward to your greater participation in the improvement of the quality of education in the country now that your institution has been conferred a university status. Let us strengthen our partnership in nation building.

Mabuhay!

(SGD.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**
President, Republic of the Philippines

LYCEUM NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MESSAGE

It is with great pride and honor that I greet the students, alumni, parents, employees, administration, and guests of the Lyceum-Northwestern University on the event of our university week.

This affair has become a source of an understood jubilation in the history of our beloved institution for our long wait is over! The seed planted by our Founders and my beloved parents, Dr. Francisco Q Duque and Mrs. Florencia T. Duque has flourished. The early dream of my brothers and sisters to turn this institution into a university is finally realized . The challenge for those who discouraged us on our goal had strengthened us. The sacrifices of dedicated and committed employees, the continuous trust of parents, and the community have finally borne fruit.

We share this honor to all who in one way or the other made us realize this achievement. However, to rest on our accomplishment is sloth. Lyceum Northwestern University still dreams of countless dreams: Level III Accreditation, an autonomous status, more relevant community projects, and globalization.

Becoming a university is tough but being a university is tougher. But there are no complex prescriptions to the attainment of our plans and aspirations but the LNU proven formula that TEAMWORK AND HARDWORK WILL WORK- and indeed it works!

(SGD.) ATTY. GONZALO T. DUQUE
President

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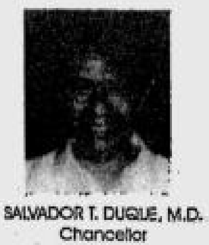
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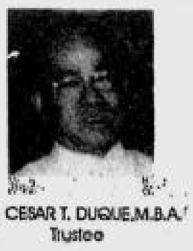
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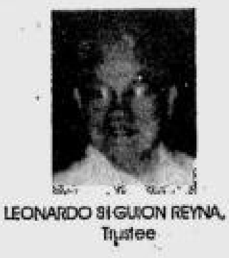
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Police execs insist arrest of Pentagon kidnap boss no 'moro-moro'

By TJ Burgonio

LAST week's arrest of suspected Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faisal Marohombsar was a legitimate operation and not a "moro-moro" staged to cover up police involvement in kidnapping activities, police officials insisted yesterday.

"There was no *moro-moro* (staged play) here. This was a legitimate operation. This was a major accomplishment for the police," said Philippine National Police chief Director General Leandro Mendoza.

Mendoza was reacting to reports quoting Eid Kabalu, Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson, that the arrest of Marohombsar was "another form of deception by the police to protect" its image.

Mendoza also denied Kabalu's claim that Marohombsar was carrying a safe conduct pass issued by the PNP chief himself when the suspect was arrested in a Quiapo, Manila lodging house last Saturday.

"We deny he had a safe conduct pass. That was one of the requests he made in connection with his surrender, but we rejected the offer, as well as many others he made that were impossible to give," Mendoza said.

The national police chief revealed that Marohombsar had been sending surrender feelers to Interior Secretary Joey Lina and himself since last month.

Other conditions reportedly set by Marohombsar for his surrender were the dropping of charges against him and his 60 armed followers; the granting of a visa to himself, even though he did not specify where he wanted to go, and his appointment as a foreign service officer.

Police, military and National Anti-Kidnap for Ransom Task Force (Naktaf) agents arrested Marohombsar, the alleged chief negotiator of the Pentagon gang, after they trailed him from Mindanao to Manila last week.

The gang had been blamed for the abduction of Chinese engineer Zhang Zhong Quiang and other Chinese nationals last year and automotive heiress Ma. Cecilia Bonifacio this year. The group was also believed behind the abduction of Italian priest Guiseppe Pierantoni and Canadian Pierre Belanger.

Belanger and Bonifacio have since been released after they allegedly paid ransom, while some of the Chinese hostages were killed and others survived their ordeal. Pierantoni is still being held by the gang and his physical condition has reportedly deteriorated.

Supt. Paterno Orduna, deputy regional chief for intelligence, said charges have been filed before the Davao del Sur Regional Trial Court against Marohombsar for the abduction of Belanger and Bonifacio.

He said Marohombsar should be returned to Digos City soon to face the two kidnapping and serious illegal detention charges filed against him by police.

Aside from the charges, the Pentagon leader is facing similar cases in Cotabato and Cagayan de Oro City courts.

Marohombsar's arrest in Manila was covered by two warrants issued by Judge Emmanuel Badoy of Cotabato City and Judge Edgardo Lloren of Cagayan de Oro City.

Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco has asked the House committee on public order and security to investigate reports that some active and retired military and police officers are involved in kidnapping-for-ransom operations, including with the Pentagon gang. ***With Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Juliet Javellana***

NEWSBRIEFS

'Ambush' banned anew

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has once more banned "ambush interviews." On Thursday, Ms Macapagal suddenly refused to talk to reporters who had hoped for a chance interview after her speaking engagement in a high school in Taytay, Rizal. During INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila's book-launching that night, she again refused to answer questions. She complained to a Malacañang reporter that she was being misquoted. Breaking her own rule, the President had been freely granting ambush interviews outside Malacañang. She banned ambush interviews when she assumed office in January last year. She called the interviews "un-presidential." She instead reinstated the weekly televised press conference which her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, abolished. But she also changed her mind on that. Presidential spokesman Rigoberto Tiglao the other day said Ms Macapagal would sit down to lunch with Malacañang reporters every week to answer their questions more extensively. ***Dona Pazzibugan***

Sin firm vs condoms

MANILA Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday said the Catholic Church is not cowed by the international pressure exerted by a group out to end the Vatican's anti-condom policy. "I maintain the Church's stand against condoms and artificial contraception. We must always stand up for what is right even if we are pressured by groups like the CFFC (Catholics for a Free Choice)," Sin said in a statement sent to Church reporters. Last Tuesday, the Washington-based CFFC started its campaign here to raise the awareness of Catholics and non-Catholics on the "devastating effect" of the Vatican's ban on condoms in preventing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. But Sin insists that the Church stands by what it believes to be a moral cause. "Morality is not determined by numbers. Morality is rooted in the truths of God," he said. ***Armand Nocum***

She knew Pershing

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A Filipina whose life spanned from the start of US colonial rule in the Philippines to the return of American soldiers on a campaign against terror, died on Friday. She was 98 years old. Florence Mankin, a local resident, died in a hospital where she was taken three days ago after complaining of stomach pains, a relative told Reuters. Mankin spoke to Reuters earlier this week and recalled how she played with US General John Pershing when she was a six-year-old urchin in Zamboanga. "Black Jack" Pershing later became known as the commander of the US expeditionary force to Europe during World War I. Mankin, a schoolteacher, married one of Pershing's soldiers. She had about 50 grandchildren at the time of her death. ***Reuters***

Ullah remembered

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has not forgotten Roland Ullah. She said the military is still trying to rescue Ullah, the Abu Sayyaf's remaining hostage from the Sipadan kidnapping nearly two years ago. It had been quite a while since the President spoke of Ullah. Speaking before the 5th National Congress of the Philippine Councilors League, Ms Macapagal assured the families of Ullah and Ediborah Yap that everything is being done to rescue them. "I would also like to send this message to Mr. Ullah and his family: That our war against the Abu Sayyaf is not over until we rescue Roland Ullah," she went on. ***Dona Pazzibugan***

Bayan to snub Edsa rites

MILITANT groups under the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan are snubbing the commemoration of the 16th anniversary of Edsa 1 at the People Power Monument and will hold instead a separate protest action at the US Embassy on Monday. Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño told the INQUIRER that at least four officials of the Edsa People Power Commission, including himself, were expected to join Bayan's march to the US Embassy. Casiño however refused to reveal the names of the three other PPC commissioners who would not be appearing in the official celebration at the People Power Monument on Edsa. He said the mass actions on Feb. 25 aim to mark the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship and to protest President Macapagal's alleged "puppetry" to the US government which, he described, as "worse than Marcos'."

Ceramics retraced

THE HISTORY of ceramic collecting in the Philippines will be the subject of the next edition of the "Lectures 2002" series at the National Museum on March 9, 2002. Cynthia Ongpin Valdes, an expert on trade ceramics found in the country and the former president of the Oriental Ceramic Society of the Philippines, will trace the early history of ceramic specimen collecting in the country—from the ethnographical mission of Antoine Alfred Marche from 1879 to 1885, to ceramics in foreign collections, to how contemporary collections came about. The lecture, sponsored jointly by the National Museum, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Museum Foundation of the Philippines, will be at 10 a.m. at the Tambunting Villonco Hall of the Museum of the Filipino People (formerly Finance Bldg.) at the Rizal Park. Call Jing Pascual at 813-0771 for information.

MILF TEXT BRIGADE

Give us 25,000 cellphones, we'll surrender

By Alcuin Papa

SURRENDER to the government and text to your heart's content.

This may sound facetious but over 1,000 members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have offered to give up in exchange for 25,000 cellular phones, the National Police Commission said yesterday. That translates to 25 cellphones per surrenderee.

The proposal was contained in a two-page letter dated Nov. 23, 2001 sent by the rebels' leaders to President Macapagal-Arroyo through Interior Secretary Joey Lina and Napolcom vice chair Rogelio Pureza.

The imported cellphones with accessories, the rebels said, would "capitalize our livelihood." Most Moros are known to trade in cellphones and other electronic gadgets.

The guerrillas also asked for safe conduct passes for themselves and for the integration of 150 of their total number of 1,011 into the Philippine National Police. The request was forwarded to Lina by Pureza in a Jan. 8, 2002 memo.

The prospective surrenderees also asked for export permits for the rattan poles they would harvest in Bukidnon and Lanao del Sur and the hiring of 150 teachers, all of them their wives or other members of their families.

In return, the MILF guerrillas said they would surrender their high-powered firearms, "as justification of their intentions."

Yesterday, the MILF request was forwarded for approval to the government panel that is involved in peace talks with the MILF. The government side is headed by retired Gen. Eduardo Ermita.

The letter had come from MILF commanders Casan Langoyo Serad, Abdullah Dimasangkay, Musa Dansalan and Domado Dimasangca. The four commanded the forces that comprised the 1,011 MILF guerrillas who decided to quit their fight with the government.

The forces were part of the MILF's Internal Security Force of the Eastern Lanao del Sur Regional Command based in Camp Hijrah. The MILF fighters were from Regions IX, XI and XII.

Negotiations for their surrender were started on Sept. 2, 2001 somewhere in Central Mindanao.

The government panel was represented by Pureza, retired police Senior Supt. Mongcao Angintaopan Sr. and Senior Supt. Kiram Diangka Jr.

'Rosebud' eyeing Senate seat in 2004

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—How does the sound of "Senator Rosebud" grab you?

After stirring the country with her sensational exposés on the ways of narco-politics, Mary "Rosebud" Ong, undercover agent-turned-whistleblower, may run for the Senate in 2004 to further promote her crusade against illegal drugs.

Ong, replying to reporters' questions on her political plans in a forum here on Thursday, said she would not be averse to running for and serving as senator as she wants to "be of help."

"I would not say no (if there is a clamor for me to run for senator)," she told members of the Pampanga Tri-Media Association and the Angeles City Citizen's Crime Watch.

"I can show people that I can be different," she added.

She said that going to the Senate seat would give her a chance to have a "face-off" with her arch-enemy, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, the former chief of the Philippine National Police.

But this may not even happen because "by 2004, Lacson will already be in jail," Rosebud said.

In her testimony before the Senate hearings last year, Ong accused Lacson of being the brains behind the kidnapping and drug syndicates in the country. She also accused Lacson of having laundered illegal money.

Ong said she was ready to confront Lacson "anywhere."

"Just let him name the place," she said.

Lacson has, however, obtained a temporary restraining order on the kidnapping, money laundering and drug trafficking cases that the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group have filed against him.

The justice department has a pending motion against the TRO with the Supreme Court.

But Ong said she was apprehensive about joining politics as her exposés have earned her "many enemies."

She also said she did not have the resources to fund a senatorial campaign. Philippine politics was "a game of money," she said.

"I have pawned all my properties and I haven't redeemed these yet," she said in Filipino.

But there are indications Ong is successfully building a considerable youth following.

After the Senate hearings last year, she went on an extensive speaking tour covering more than 100 schools all over the country. She was always received warmly by the students, one of her security aides said.

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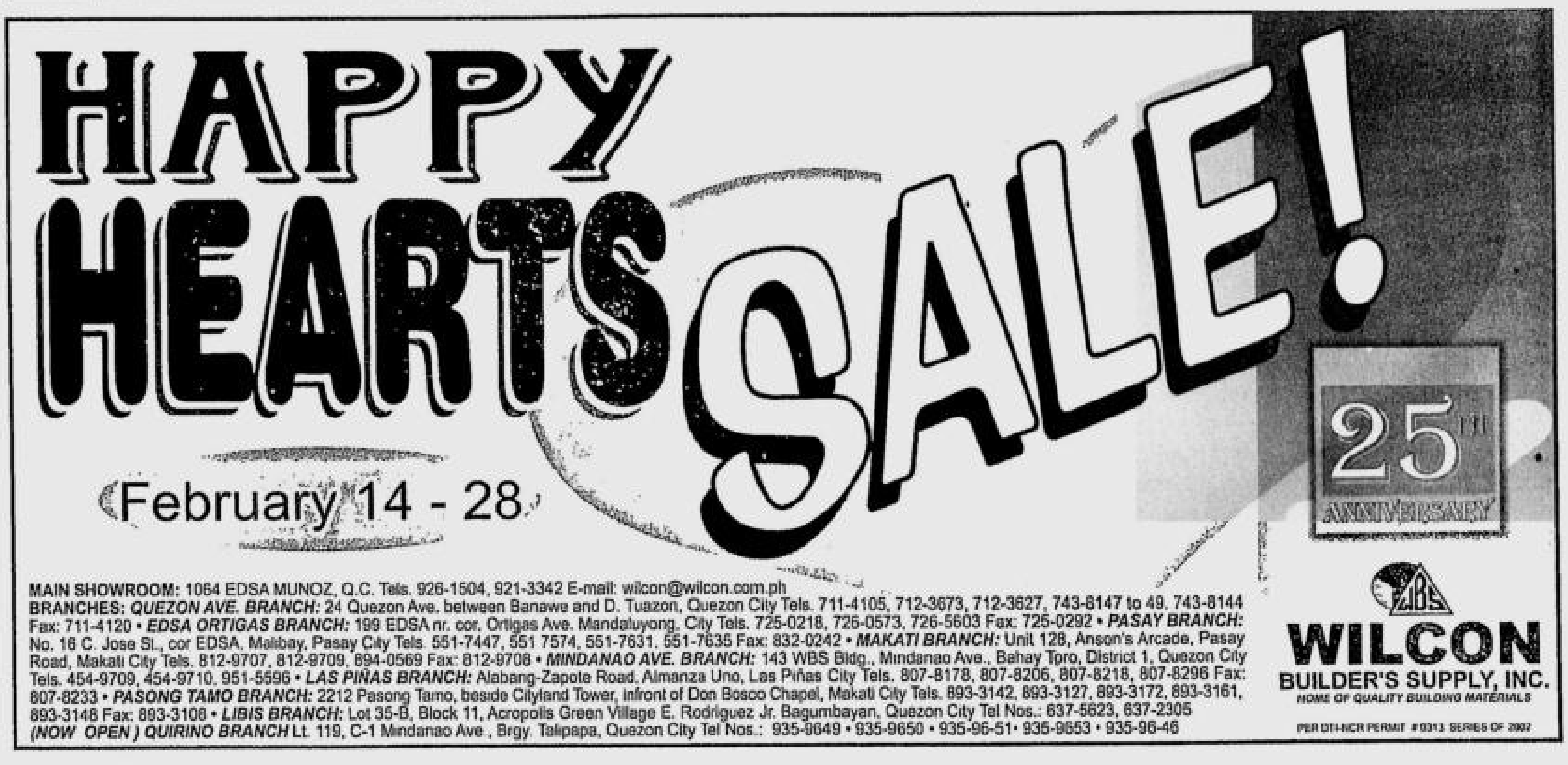

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Larger picture

EDITORIAL

THE TWO books launched on the fall of former President Joseph Estrada by the INQUIRER, in cooperation with Anvil Publishing Co., last Thursday represent a serious historical study on the constitutional crisis that engulfed the nation between October 2000 and May 1, 2001. They span two upheavals—the first being the collapse of the Estrada administration on Jan. 19, 2001, and second, the attack on Malacañang Palace on May 1, 2001 by Estrada's supporters.

These two events were driven by mass demonstrations, albeit with new class dimensions. Because the two exercises of people power were both mass movements, it is easy to be distracted from the underlying purpose of the two books, "The Fall of Estrada, the Inside Story" and the more scholarly companion volume, "Fifteen Perspectives on the Estrada Crisis."

The serialization by the INQUIRER of excerpts from "The Fall," written by Amando Doronila, tells a dynamic story of previously undisclosed facts and incidents that led to the collapse of the Estrada regime. In this gripping narrative that goes deeper than breaking newspaper reports on the crisis, certain events have been highlighted. Among these are:

(1) Estrada was on the verge of resigning as early as Nov. 3, 2000, when his government came under heavy siege from the widespread demand for his resignation. (2) The prosecution's star witness in the Estrada impeachment trial, Clarissa Ocampo of Equitable PCI Bank, was almost prevented from testifying on the now famous Jose Velarde signature because the prosecutors suspected that she was under instruction to give misleading testimony. (3) The withdrawal of military support from the Estrada administration was not a walk in the park, as shown on television. Some senior generals tried to reverse the decision to withdraw by proposing a military power grab and the installation of a military junta. (4) Between midnight of Jan. 19 and about 10 a.m. of the following day, the nation stood on the edge of a power vacuum, threatening to plunge it into civil war, before Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo decided to ask Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to swear her into the presidency. (5) There were more than a dozen scenarios planned by protest groups, including adventurist military factions, to ignite massive people power on the assumption that Estrada would be acquitted by the impeachment court, and all these assumptions were blown away by the Senate vote suppressing the disclosure of the contents of the second envelope which sparked Edsa II. (6) The crisis did not follow structured scenarios.

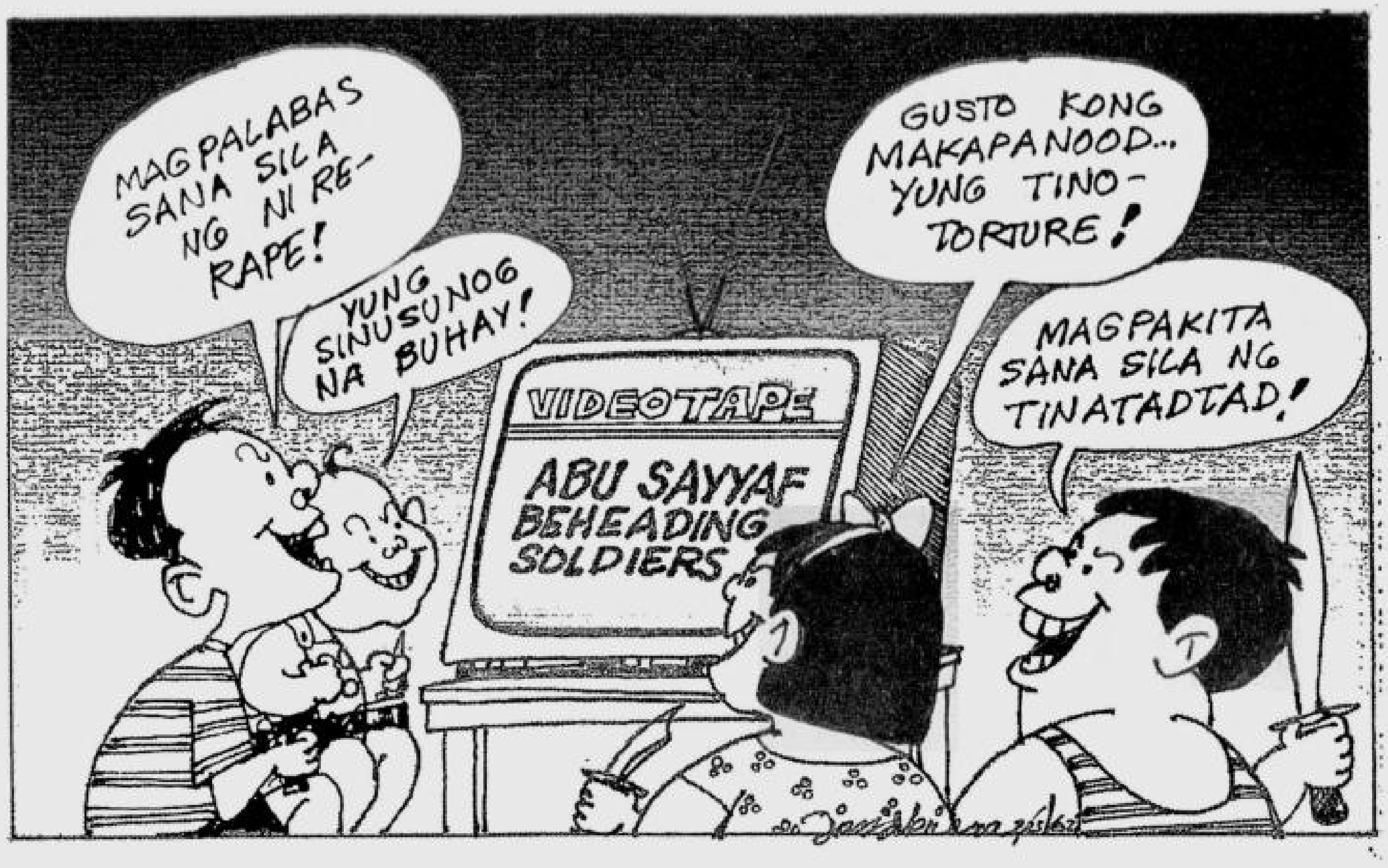
The second book puts in perspective from several disciplines the breaking events examined in the first book. In these two books, journalism merges with academic scholarship, giving the public a sense of history and a clearer idea of the sweep of events.

It is easy to be distracted by the narrative of the high points of the crisis and lose sight of the important point that the books are really about the turmoil of Philippine democracy as it transforms its shapes following the overthrow in 1986 of the Marcos dictatorship. The dictatorship from 1972 to 1986 demolished the foundations of a stable democracy and its overthrow has left a fragile democracy without its old moorings.

Edsa II was a continuation of the process of restoration of democracy and its consolidation. In this context, it is most useful to consider that the dramatic street marches, the seminal impeachment trial, and abortion of Estrada's term by the military defection and the mass street movements, and even Estrada and Ms Macapagal themselves are just episodes in the broad panorama of a Philippine democracy undergoing upheaval and change.

In writing history, it makes interesting reading if events, key players and people are told in a human story that leaps with life. This is what the first book tries to do: present history as a story of people reacting to unsettling change.

The book raises questions about the overuse of people power as an instrument of change and of political reform. It provokes questions about the future of democracy more than they describe and analyze events. If the events examined in the two books are seen from this perspective, the reader will not get bogged down by the details and he can see the larger picture of the perils facing Philippine democracy.


MAGPALABAS SANA SILA NG NI RE-RAPE!
YUNG SINUSUNOG NA BUHAY!
VIDEOTAPE
ABU SAYYAF BEHEADING SOLDIERS
GUSTO KONG MAKAPANOOD... YUNG TINO-TORTURE!
MAGPAKITA SANA SILA NG TINATADTAD!

Garchitorena's reputation

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I'VE known Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena only officially as a colleague on the bench and have no information about his private life. I have wondered, though, why, since his appointment to the Sandiganbayan in 1986, he has not been promoted to the Supreme Court in the usual course of an outstanding judicial career. Some justices both on his court and on the Court of Appeals have been chosen ahead of him as if to pointedly underscore his unacceptability.

In more sensitive days, the reverent code of *delicadeza* called for the resignation of the person by-passed in favor of someone presumably more deserving. It was an obligatory point of honor. Justice Florentino Torres, the senior associate justice when Chief Justice Cayetano Arellano retired from the Supreme Court in 1920, confidently expected to replace him. Instead, Victorino Mapa, who was among the three Filipinos first appointed to the Court (with Arellano and Torres) was quietly recalled from the Cabinet and inducted as the new chief justice. Torres immediately resigned.

Torres probably felt his by-passing reflected on his integrity or competence, but this was of course not true. He was a widely respected jurist and his resignation was received with much regret and admiration not only by the legal profession but also by the entire nation. The speculation is that he did not get the top position because he was already 76 years old at the time. If that was really the reason, it would sound ironic in hindsight because Mapa died earlier than Torres.

Presiding Justice Pompeyo Diaz of the Court of Appeals followed that honorable tradition when in 1954 President Ramon Magsaysay by-passed him and chose a junior colleague as his first appointee to the Supreme Court. Diaz immediately resigned although there was no blot on his name. By contrast, another member of that court was, more recently, by-passed several times, first as presiding justice and later as a member of the Supreme Court. He stuck it out with each successive blow to his pride and, surprisingly, finally made it to the high tribunal. Predictably, he later embarrassed it.

The case of Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee was different. As senior associate justice of the Supreme Court, he was by-passed not once but twice by Marcos, who did not see him as a tractable follower. It did not disgrace him when he chose not to resign; in fact, his decision to remain on the Court added to his prestige as the "bright light in the black night" of martial law for his frequent and often lone dissents against the abuses of the dictatorship. His resignation would have further emasculated an already feeble tribunal.

I hesitate to attack a person when he is down, but I cannot help saying, without malice and as an ordinary citizen and member of the bar, that the penalty imposed on Presiding Justice Garchitorena by the Supreme Court last November is rather lenient, considering the seriousness of his offenses or neglect.

The Supreme Court found that as of Dec. 21, 2000, there were 198 cases submitted for decision by the First Division headed by Garchitorena, and by Nov. 16, 2001, 138 of them had still not been decided. "For almost one year, not one case was decided/resolved by the Presiding Justice himself." The Court observed that "we have in cases where trial judges failed to decide *even a single case* within the 90-day period imposed a fine ranging from P5,000 to the equivalent of their one month's salary." As of Jan. 6, 2001, nine cases assigned to Garchitorena and submitted for decision, some more than 10 years ago, were still undecided and "under study." Yet, besides being grounded as Presiding Justice for dereliction of his administrative duties, he was fined only P20,000.

The recent reversal of the September 2000 Sandiganbayan decision forfeiting to the government the $627 million claimed by the Marcoses casts further doubt on the conduct of Garchitorena, who wrote the 3-2 resolution granting the motion for reconsideration. His reason was the failure of the PCGG to submit "authenticated translations" of the rulings of the Swiss courts that much of the contested deposits belonged to the Marcoses and were of "illegal provenance." Such translations, he said, were of "extreme importance."

If they were of such extreme importance, how could his First Division have reached its original decision without such translations? If these documents were really that indispensable, why was the PCGG not required to submit them before the original decision or, for that matter, the subsequent contrary resolution, was reached? The justices could have easily ordered the rectification of the omission; instead, they considered it a fatal mistake and ruled for the Marcoses. No less important, it took them more than one year—beyond the reglementary period—to change their mind.

I hope Presiding Justice Garchitorena can rehabilitate his rather tattered reputation and restore public confidence in his capability and honesty as head of a superior court. I specially admire his fluent writing style, which should be a model for judges less talented—if more industrious—than he is. The quality and promptness of his *ponencias*—if he improves them to the satisfaction of the Supreme Court—could also be worth emulating.

Garbage

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

GIDEON Javier called me the other day. He was on his soapbox about a contract, which he claimed was so one-sided against the already-put-upon Metro Manila household, and which he wanted me to read.

Now I need to read a contract like I need a hole in the head (I am already drowning with reading material). But Gideon's request I was not about to disregard. First, because I know that he turned his back on a promising career in the United States (he is a Harvard graduate after all) and decided to carve out a life in his home country. And second, because his father Evelio was killed in cold blood for fighting for his principles and his country, in the prime of his life. And I will always appreciate that.

Not content with sending me a copy of the contract, I also received a folder complete with several annexes, entitled "Jancom Garbage Contract Scam," courtesy of the Citizen's National Network Against Poverty and Corruption (CNN APC) and its Bantay Kontrata subgroup. Gideon is listed as a member of the CNN APC core group; he obviously is his father's son.

Oh, no, not another acronym for another NGO is a reaction that would be justifiable—at last count there are already about 30,000 (or was it 45,000?) of them all over the country. And not all of them are on the up and up, either. But CNN APC's core group contains names that I would pay attention to anytime, including those of Liway Chato, Triccie Sison and Stella Arnaldo. People I respect, people whose commitment to the Philippines and to Filipinos I do not doubt. And so I read not only the contract, but the voluminous file that came with it.

And I was stunned.

"Scam" does not begin to describe what was perpetrated on the Filipino people by this contract, the purpose of which sounds innocuous enough: "For the BOT Implementation of The Solid Waste Management Project for the San Mateo Rizal Waste Disposal Site." In short, a garbage contract, between Jancom and the Republic of the Philippines.

The file folder, complete with Annexes A to F, shows how meticulously the Bantay Kontrata works: it enumerates a list of "infirmities, lapses, illegalities and violations of law" surrounding the contract, complete with supporting documents, including a chronology of events starting from April 20, 1994, leading up to the award in favor of Jancom.

The list of infirmities, etc. is almost a mile long and will make any concerned reader's toes curl. Some of the more glaring:

First, it is contended that the whole bidding process for the San Mateo project was rigged from the start. Backing the charge is a copy of a confidential memorandum by former CORD-NCR chair Dionisio de la Serna to then President Fidel V. Ramos dated July 27, 1995, reporting how the committee which he headed "arranged" with the prequalified bidders so that Jancom would be the only bidder for the San Mateo Project, while the other two bidders would jointly bid for the other project, in Carmona. How convenient all around, because if there is only one bidder, than the contract can be directly negotiated.

Second, there were major deviations in the contract that took place between the time Jancom submitted its original proposal and the time the contract was signed, to wit: The original project cost of $156 million ended up being $378 million, a cost increase of 142 percent, with no rebidding being undertaken (government rules require rebidding if the cost increase exceeds 25 percent).

Even more onerous was that the original tipping fee of $10 per ton was changed in the contract to $59 per ton; there was a guaranteed energy buy-back price of 9 cents per kilowatt-hour, which was double the prevailing Napocor costs; an automatic annual increase in tipping fees based on the consumer price index; plus a provision for additional compensation based on moisture content, which would automatically (the moisture content of Philippine garbage is very high) mean additional charges of $14 per ton.

And then while the original proposal said that there would be no government guarantees **in any form** except for landfill sites, the signed contract required the Republic of the Philippines to issue a performance undertaking, guaranteeing the payment of $59 per ton plus a guaranteed energy buy-back at 9 cents per kilowatt-hour, and other adjustments.

Third, there were violations of several laws. Aside from the violation of the Government Accounting and Auditing Manual's rule on rebidding with cost increases, the CNN APC points to violation of the Clean Air Act of 2000, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001 and the Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. Moreover, there were several violations of the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) law, because there was no bid bond, no performance bond, no prior Investment Coordination Committee (ICC)-Neda clearance before the signing—which means that Jancom should have been disqualified immediately.

To top it all, the contract was signed without presidential approval, which is required on national projects costing over P300 million. And as if that were not enough, the signatories, according to the Bantay Kontrata, had absolutely no legal mandate whatsoever to represent the Republic of the Philippines in any agreement.

And yet, in spite of all these infirmities, these violations, the Supreme Court's Third Division recently upheld the contract. Truly, wonders never cease.

Rising cases of hold-ups in public vehicles

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

LAST Thursday evening, a friend of my son, Raymond H. Rinoza, 35, a senior reliability engineer in Lufthansa Technik Philippines, was in a bus bound for Caloocan along Edsa after his evening classes at a business management school. Five men boarded the bus at Santolan Road and brandishing guns and knives, announced a hold-up. In 10 minutes, they had taken everything they could get from the passengers and gotten off the bus. Raymond, who is from Valenzuela, Bulacan, had withdrawn earlier that day P35,000 to pay for a round-trip ticket to Canada to attend the coming World Youth Day there. He had the money in a bag and when the hold-up was announced, he dropped it on the floor and kicked it under his seat. It was a very smart move; the hold-up men didn't find it.

* * *

A few weeks earlier I wrote about another hold-up along Edsa, where an employee of my brother was among the victims of four armed men and a woman. The group boarded the bus in front of Mantrade and got off near the Guadalupe Bridge. I understand that hold-ups have become a regular occurrence in our public vehicles at various hours of the night or day, victimizing the middle and lower classes who lose their hard-earned wages and belongings. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza was complaining the other day about the rash of hold-ups victimizing foreigners in Manila's tourist belt.

All these incidents suggest a deteriorating peace and order in the metropolis. The police have to do something about this. Ordinary citizens are suffering at the hands of lawless elements. No matter what gimmicks Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon comes up with, tourism won't take off if the foreign tourists are victimized.

To discourage hold-ups, I suggest that uniformed policemen be deployed at random in buses and jeepneys. Then, too, there ought to be more police visibility in the tourist belt. The authorities have to act fast.

* * *

The peace and order situation in the country, especially in the metropolis, has to be tackled, lest it affect the economy which is now improving. At the birthday party of Ms Gina de Venecia last week, I sat beside former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson, and he sounded quite upbeat about the economy. He pointed out that the economic indicators are good: international reserves are high; inflation and interest rates are low; and the gross domestic product showed some growth. Moreover, he noted that 75 percent of the money in the stock market now comes from foreign sources, indicating that foreign investments are now coming back "in trickles." There's a need to attract more of them, he stressed.

Another good sign, said the former Bangko Sentral chief, is that the Philippine dollar bonds are "very marketable" even among Philippine banks and Filipino investors and they command a good price. The increase in demand and prices, he said, is indicative of confidence in the Macapagal administration.

* * *

Singson said world uncertainty will continue to affect our exports even as the profitability of exports remains comparatively unattractive. For every P1 million sank into exports, he said, profits constitute only about P250,000. It's agriculture and tourism as well as direct foreign investments that will move the economy, he said. To get those foreign investments, the government should market the country through investment missions. "We should go out there and sell the country, for we have a good story to tell," Singson said. As for our tourism, he pointed out that we have many tourist spots that can beat anything abroad, but he agreed that the peace and order situation must be tackled quickly.

* * *

A few months back I had a chat with my good friend, Caltex Philippines' corporate affairs manager Marian Catedral, about the giant oil company's Street-to-School Program, one of its core social programs established in 1999. Marian pointed out that this program aims to provide disadvantaged children a better future by transforming them into productive members of society through the provision of technical education, shelter and strong value formation. The Caltex Fund has been supporting about 20 NGOs nationwide, whose programs are geared toward empowering these disadvantaged youths, so they could have a better future.

I told Marian that Caltex should include among its beneficiaries our students at the Erda Technical-Vocational High School in Pandacan, who come from very poor families in Metro Manila. Erda Tech students are on total or partial scholarships, depending on their family status. On their fifth year, they receive training in any of a number of technical courses so that they can find employment right after graduation and help their families.

Marian was interested and contacted Wilhelmina Martinez, the Erda Tech administrator. The result was that over the holidays, a training partnership between Caltex Philippines and Erda Tech was forged. The agreement to undertake the program, dubbed Caltex In-Plant Training (CIPT), was signed by Fr. Pierre Tritz, president of Erda, and Nicholas Florio, Caltex country chair. About 20 Erda Tech students began last month their three-month, in-plant training in participating Caltex Xpress Lube outlets throughout Metro Manila. In the course of their training, they are expected to absorb Caltex's high standard of work ethics. Many thanks to Caltex for this valuable training for Erda Tech's students.

The bee in Marissa's bonnet

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

IN THE not-too-distant future, say a decade or so, the likelihood is that today's zero PEACe bonds will finally be seen for what they are: another evolutionary thrust of Filipino genius pulling itself from out of history's mire in crisis and controversy.

Whenever a new idea pops into our midst, upsetting digestions unready to absorb its value to human betterment, I remember Copernicus and Galileo. Copernicus had the temerity to discover that the earth revolves around the sun, not vice-versa, but was stunned to silence by fear of the Holy Roman Church. It was left to Galileo to "dethrone the earth" from the center of Creation, a quantum leap for which he was burned at the stake during the Inquisition.

Code-NGO chair Marissa Camacho-Reyes, 48, is neither an economist nor a natural scientist but a social scientist specializing in reproductive health. For her temerity in breaking present bounds of thought on NGOs, government and capitalism, she and her alter ego, Code executive director Dan Songco, are being roundly pilloried by an unlikely alliance between unabashedly capitalist, discredited politicians and two wings of a now splintered leftist Freedom from Debt Coalition.

At the other end of this alliance projecting closed mind-sets and none-too-subtle private agendas on the national screen, there, too, is an ongoing internal NGO debate on the "morality of making money on government"—a direct product of knee-jerk reporting by non-economist/journalists on yet another tale of "plunder" and "influence-peddling." Fact is, not only does the earth revolve around the sun, the government actually saved money on the PEACe bonds. The economists agree on this, with the bonus of side-splitting hilarity in the Inquirer's business pages.

How NGOs began "engaging the capital market" with the same vigor that they have engaged Right, Left and Center is therefore an essential part of a story future Filipinos will surely call a milestone. Like all good tales, it started with a gut response to real life—the dire prospects of NGOs in the grass roots as foreign grant funds dried up in the midst of an Asian, soon a global, economic crisis. "I think we should look outside the NGO sector," Marissa quietly told her board.

Given that this ongoing crisis has been called the "crisis of capitalism" itself by the gray eminencies of world economics, the leap Marissa invited Code-NGO to take was equally dramatic—to turn a page in NGO economic history. NGO funding had hitherto been limited to foreign grant funds from governments and private philanthropic organizations and bilateral and multi-lateral mechanisms between the Philippine government, multi-national funding agencies and foreign governments in official development assistance, debt forgiveness and debt-swap arrangements.

The latter two, innovations impelled by NGO thinkers in the Cory years, have done well by a related crisis area, the environment. As chair of the largest NGO "network of networks" in a new, more difficult time, the deceptively shy but intensely determined Marissa flapped evolutionary wings and said, "Why not the capital market?" With zero experience in the field, she herself describes the germ of her idea, as "crude": P20,000 and P50,000 bonds to be sold to individual Filipino investors here and abroad for a six-month period, invested in a trust fund at the prevailing 12 percent interest, of which 4 percent would be given to investors and the remaining 8 percent to NGO projects. Only 10,000 investors at P50,000 each totaled P500 million, Marissa exclaimed.

"Uh huh," was Songco's tactful but skeptical first response. "Why don't you develop the idea and tell me about it later."

"I have no time but I can get you in touch with someone else to discuss it with you," was the second reaction from her younger brother Lito on the eve of a business trip to Germany for Deutsche Bank to which he was still connected. It took her older brother to give Marissa the name of Bobby Guevarra in RCBC's Capital Investment Division before she and Songco finally entered bank portals with the insistent bee in her bonnet.

But when they finally managed to get Guevarra and other investment bankers to sit down with Code-NGO in a novel brainstorming session in February 2000, all she got was a frank reply: her idea simply "would not fly."

But the bee continued to buzz with the need of urban poor communities for potable water systems, rice stores and cooperative centers, MILF rebels for carabaos to return to farming from the hills of war, entrepreneurial start-up training for micro-lending in Negros, a hauling system and a traveling rice mill that would go a long, long way in Mindanao. These prompted another novel response.

"Why don't you package it for us?" Marissa asked the investment bankers. It was not *pakiusap* but a risk venture for a fee, the next leap which landed Code-NGO's third female chair plunk in the heart of the Filipino capitalist system, with full confidence in the 95-percent repayment record of NGO grass-roots lending beneficiaries. Daring is a quality usually found in mothers of voiceless, threatened broods. What was new was the blend of the profit motive with innovation in the conservative banking community, and, let's say it aloud without fear of ideological drones, Pinoy compassion in a cutthroat capitalist market.

The rest, as will surely be said in due time, is history—the best thing to have come out of the Asian economic crisis in a needy, irrepressibly creative country now on the 16th anniversary of regaining freedom by breaking with the past on wings of imagination.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

Sister Melania's story (3)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

(*Following is the conclusion of the nun's story.*)

OTHER incidents occurred to the Suñgas that appeared to be clear indications of divine intercession. After Bishop Sison told the family not to broadcast the incidents of the roses, they had a family meeting.

Sister Melania continues:

"In that meeting everyone decided that I should visit the Carmelite Monastery in Lipa following what was printed behind the novena leaflet which said: 'Please notify Carmel for any favor received through the intercession of our Blessed Mother.' My parents intended to show my right leg to the sisters as evidence of a miraculous cure that had taken place.

"From Candon my parents and I went to Pampanga first to fetch our eldest brother Jose and his wife Elena. When we arrived we were entertained by lay people who welcomed the pilgrimage groups, then we were introduced to a sister who talked to us for a while. We prayed to our Blessed Mother and were about to go home after praying the rosary when three gentlemen and two ladies told us to stay for a while because in the afternoon between 1:30 and 3:30 they would raffle all the collected petals because there were not enough to be distributed to all the people who came from all over the country. They told us to submit our names for inclusion in the raffle.

"My brother Jose wrote the names of my parents, his wife Elena, our driver Tony, my name and the names of Grace, Baby as well as my brothers Tony and Larding who had stayed at home. The *tambiolo* was overflowing with pieces of paper that a man was mixing together. As it was getting late people started to leave. There were those who were certain they wouldn't win in the raffle and so they went to buy religious items instead. Others went to pray but many went home.

"We were about to board the car when the name Jose Maria Suñga was called, followed by Abelardo Maria Suñga, then Melania Maria Suñga. With so many papers to choose from, I didn't understand how the names of three of us from the same family came out. We were surrounded by photographers, media men and ordinary people who interviewed us about ourselves and where we came from. A good number offered to buy even just one of the petals but my father refused knowing that it was Our Lady's gift to the family."

When Sister Melania was around 10 years old she already wanted to be a nun. As a high school freshman at the age of 12, she ran away to the Carmelite Monastery in Angeles City but the nuns told her she first had to finish her studies. Finally when she graduated, her father confessor advised her to join the Congregation of the Religious of the Assumption although she had really wanted to be a Carmelite.

It was in April of 1963 on their way to her clothing rites as a novice in the convent on Herran Street in Manila that her father lost his wallet to a pick-pocket and all the petals enclosed in cellophane disappeared with it. Sister believes that the time of petals as Our Lady herself has said was over. Perhaps the incident of the petals in Candon was intended as a confirmation of the shower of petals in Lipa or perhaps now that Melania had entered the convent it was no longer necessary.

Sister Melania believes, as Our Lady has said, that all those who believe and have a devotion to the Blessed Mother will now be her petals to spread the word that we have Mary as our Mother to intercede for us.

As a nun she says that she has had other significant experiences involving Our Lady's intercession.

"This happened in July 1989 in Lourdes. Before I left the Philippines some sisters, friends, relatives and family members asked me to buy souvenirs for them from Lourdes and in Rue du Bac where the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal is located in Paris. The day before we were to return to Paris, I spent a long time praying before Our Lady's image at the grotto where she had appeared to Saint Bernadette Soubirou. Then I went around the commercial area to buy souvenirs and religious objects, including ring rosaries for all the people who had asked. I had some dollars left but very few francs—just enough for my trip and purchases at Rue du Bac. I spent all my francs and forgot to buy a souvenir of my own. I continued window-shopping but even if I wanted a ring rosary and even if this was just a small item, I still could not afford to buy one. I told Mama Mary I did not mind as long as I could buy souvenirs for the sisters and others back home.

"Finally I decided to return to the convent which was a walking distance and overlooked the grotto. Each sister had been given a key to open the three iron gates in order to get in. When I reached the first gate, I had to stop to get the key from my pocket. I could not find it and my pocket seemed very deep, which was unusual because it really wasn't deep. As I bent down, there at the tip of my right foot was the ring rosary or one very much like the one I had wanted to buy but could not because I was saving my money for Rue du Bac."

At a time when malevolent forces are exerting a stranglehold on so many aspects of our national life—brutal killings whose perpetrators are never found, kidnapping so rampant people consider it a thriving industry, drugs so easily available that no family escapes unscathed—what is the message that Our Lady, Mediatrix of All Grace, is telling us through Sister Melania?

The conquest of Mt. Pinatubo

YOUNGBLOOD

Veronica C. Manabat

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

"I BROUGHT seven rolls of film!" said the old man who had a frail body. It was five in the morning. It was still dark and the air was chilly.

While I stood in one corner clad in my sweater and jogging pants desperately trying to fight off the cold breeze on this last day of November, this old man was walking around, meeting people and taking pictures, trying to capture moments and collecting memories. Though he was the oldest among the more than 100 participants in the Third Mt. Pinatubo Trek, he seemed to have the highest level of energy and excitement for the event. He said it was the third time he was climbing the majestic volcano.

I could not help but marvel at such enthusiasm and sense of wonder for the world coming from a septuagenarian. His name was Lolo Nestor.

The trek lasted one day. The four-wheel drive jeeps hit the road from the Salakot area in Clark at around six o'clock in the morning. We stopped at Barangay Sta. Juliana in Capas to register and be welcomed by the mayor and the townspeople. Then, off we went for an hour of rough and tumble ride along the rocky, lava-laden O'Donell streambed. There were times when I thought I was going to be ejected from my seat. It took us three more hours to finish the 10-kilometer climb to the volcano's crater lake.

The trek was pleasurable at first. The lava had turned into imposing, proud, massive boulders. The sound of gushing water was music to our ears. Rocks of different sizes provided a picturesque terrain. The wind was gently blowing. The sun was smiling at us. The view was breathtaking.

After walking a few kilometers, my backpack was starting to be a burden. I was close to having cramps and my feet were swelling and beginning to develop sores. The sun was burning my skin. It was an excruciatingly endless scene of rocks, sand, water and lava. The experience was "breathtaking" in the literal sense of the word.

Then I heard Lolo Nestor shouting: "Stop! Let's have our pictures taken!" Lolo's enthusiasm was contagious. It boosted my determination to go on.

Finally, we reached the volcano's summit. Far from being the raging, turbulent cavity that spat out rampaging lava which brought havoc to countless people's lives and livestock in Central Luzon in the '90s, the crater lake exuded serenity with its blue-green shade.

The experience somewhat raised my consciousness to a higher level. The Zen-like tranquility of the lake soothed my tired body and anguished, searching soul. I closed my eyes and breathed deeply. I became one with the lake in peaceful bliss.

On the way down, I opted to walk alone. I wanted to enjoy the silence and serenity that solitude brings. My thoughts started to flow as I followed the river downstream. Indeed, it was a great time for relaxing and introspection, for self-discovery.

I was deep in thought when a sudden gust of wind brought me back to reality. Then I could feel the wind whispering something to my ears. Amid the seemingly lifeless scenery, I felt a mysterious force animating the rest of the surrounding, as if the mountain was alive, breathing. It was surreal and eerie.

After two more hours of walking, I caught sight of the jeeps waiting to bring us back to the city. When I saw Lolo Nestor approaching the "finish line," it was apparent that the trek had taken its toll on his frail body. But his eyes were beaming in triumph. He was smiling and still joyfully taking pictures of everyone. Truly, the man had an indomitable spirit.

In bed that night, my body battered, burning and aching, I thought, "What in hell was I thinking, climbing Mt. Pinatubo?" Then, I remembered Lolo Nestor, the hard trek and the peace that the crater lake brought. They all taught me a thing or two about life.

Sturdy feet were not enough to get me through the long and tough journey. I needed the will to succeed, to push myself to the limit. And like Lolo Nestor, I needed to love life so that I would never stop wondering and discovering the world.

I thought I would conquer Mt. Pinatubo, but I ended up conquering myself. Now, I must proceed with the longer journey called life.

Old children

"PERHAPS I know best why man is the only animal that laughs: he alone suffers so excruciatingly that he was compelled to invent laughter."

The words of existentialist Friedrich Nietzsche were the first thing that came into my mind when I saw a picture in this paper of an old Afghan refugee sitting on a sidewalk and having a good laugh even as his country was being torn apart by war. He was carrying a bundle containing everything he owned. He had lost his foot 10 years earlier while fighting in Afghanistan. He was on his way to a refugee camp in Pakistan to start a new life.

The picture reminded me of Lolo Nestor whom I met during a trek to Mt. Pinatubo. He had inspired me with his enthusiasm and love for life to start wondering about the world and actually live. For a man who must have seen and done everything, he was still eager to discover and learn new things. His optimism shone through his eyes.

Such a positive attitude reminds me of children, whose sense of wonder is insatiable. They never tire of asking millions of questions, exploring, trying to satisfy their curiosity. Their eyes are full of hopes and dreams. The innocent smiles on their faces can melt even the hardest heart. Their laughter springs from their generous, pure souls.

Unfortunately, I rarely see a child laughing or smiling nowadays. What I see are children in Somalia with bulging tummies, thin and frail bodies and dark blank eyes. A Palestinian boy holding a rifle with pitch black eyes full of anger and hate. An Afghan girl in dirty, worn-out clothes, her eyes filled with despair, screaming for help. Thousands, even millions of children in Africa suffering from AIDS. Children in the *hurnalan* of Negros, carrying the weight of the world on their feeble shoulders. "Rugby boys" in Luneta who turn ballistic one moment and then sedate another moment. Street children wandering aimlessly on the streets of Metro Manila. Children trapped in the sex trade. Children abused by people who are supposed to protect and guide them. Children in dysfunctional families.

Their faces mirror what the world has become. It is a world of war, poverty, epidemic, injustice and greed. It is a twisted world indeed. The children looked so old, much older than Lolo Nestor. They have become wary and weary of the world at a very tender age. They have stopped believing and dreaming because they will die young anyway.

Annie in the Broadway musical asks, "Who cares if we grow or shrink?" No one. Because everyone is preoccupied with waging a war somewhere, scheming to amass all the money, power and fame in the world, or indulging in drugs, drinking, gambling—the list is endless.

The reason we are in hell is that we never really did anything to change the sorry world that we inherited from the generations before us. The roar of the mad crowd mutes the few voices that seek reforms in society. Worse, we tolerate and even perpetuate the existence of such a malevolent society.

It is time we took a second look at the world that has robbed children of their smiles, laughter and dreams and did something to change it.

Veronica C. Manabat finished her BA Philosophy at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Comprehensive protection for women in prostitution

PHILHEALTH Region 8 through its regional manager, Reynaldo Capangpangan, is toying with the idea of enrolling the women in prostitution in a health insurance program. (PDI, 2/19/02) This, according to him, will serve as protection for women since they are "in the most hazardous position due to the nature of their work."

I think no one will argue about this. All Filipino citizens must have access to health services.

However, there are a number of things that must be considered in implementing this health insurance program among women in prostitution. The premise of giving health insurance to women in prostitution should be anchored not only on the danger of contracting sexually transmitted diseases because they are in prostitution. To work solely on that premise is discriminatory to women. Women in prostitution are at high risk not only from STDs but also from other illnesses and health problems that ordinary women get.

A survey in 1999 by the Bukluran ng Kababaihan sa Lansangan (Bukal), a non-government organization working with women in street prostitution in Quezon City, found that women suffer from cough, colds, fever, flu, headache and muscle plain because of exposure to pollution, lack of sleep, malnutrition and abuse of prohibited drugs and other substances. Unfortunately, these health problems together with other psychological traumas the women experience as necessary ill effects of prostitution are not addressed by Capangpangan's proposal.

Women who have gone to health centers for reproductive health examinations also complain that medical personnel in health centers are inattentive and insensitive to their conditions. This, in turn, makes the women hesitant, if not altogether, averse to going to health centers.

If we really want to protect women who are in prostitution from further harm, we need to protect them from further exploitation and abuse from customers and those who profit from selling women and children for sex. The government must provide projects to help those women who would like to get out of prostitution.

—RAQUEL T. IGNACIO, coordinator, Bukluran ng Kababaihan sa Lansangan, Suite 406 Victoria Plaza, 41 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

Directive on octane ratings ignored

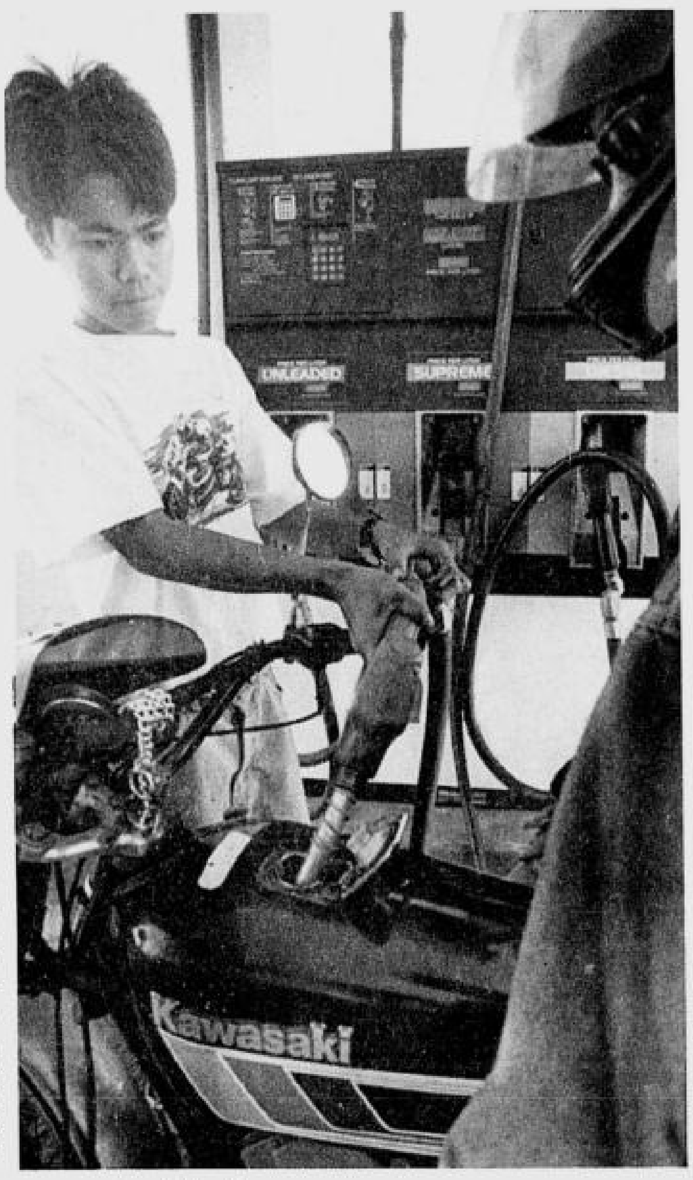
I RECENTLY read in the papers a circular from the Department of Energy (DOE) mandating all gasoline dealers and retailers to post the octane ratings of each of their gasoline grade. Being a motorist, I was heartened to find out that I will no longer have to guess what type of gasoline to use every time I need to gas up. The octane rating posted as part of the gasoline label at the pump would at least be able to give me an idea of the quality of gas I am purchasing.

I was in for a disappointment. As I eagerly approached the nearest gas station on my way to work, I saw no such octane ratings posted there. I have also observed that almost all gas stations, including the Big Three, have not posted octane ratings on most of their petroleum products.

From what I read, the gas stations should have complied with the DOE circular not later than Jan. 1, 2002.

As a consumer, I urge the government, particularly the DOE, to closely monitor the implementation of its directive because many people seem to be either ignorant of the circular or deliberately disregarding it. I understand that failure to comply with the directive subjects the violator to administrative sanctions.

—ALEXANDER T. JALECO, 18 Marble Wood St., Lot 9, Block 10, Area 8, Phase 6, Greenwoods Executive Village, Pasig City



LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Prime Savings Bank depositor's lament

IN 1999, the Prime Savings Bank was closed on account of bankruptcy. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas designated the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. as receiver and charged with the duty of winding up its affairs, including the sale of its remaining assets to settle its deposit liabilities.

The depositors of the defunct Prime Savings Bank, including my brother and father, have been suffering in silence, waiting for more than three years for the payment of their uninsured deposits.

We appeal to the PDIC to act conscientiously as receiver, and end the depositors' suffering.

It is said that he who does wrong is more unhappy than he who suffers wrong. Still, in the name of simple justice, we ask the Bangko Sentral to firm up its resolve to file appropriate charges against the errant officers of the closed Prime Savings Bank.

—LEO MAGNO, 19-B Charity St., Tierra Evelina, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Loakan Airport needs upgrading

I AM elated by the plan to rehabilitate airports outside of Metro Manila, which was disclosed by Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez. That's a very good development.

I hope the Loakan Airport in Baguio City is included in the list of the priorities of the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo because it will help the city residents and visitors who use the airport.

Situated in a strategic location, the Loakan Airport offers direct access to various key points of Northern and Central Luzon and is therefore a springboard to socioeconomic growth. But sadly, the infrastructure at the airport is not as good as those in other airports. Upgrading its facilities is, therefore, necessary to enhance Baguio's attraction as a major tourist destination. Modernizing its facilities will sharpen the city's competitive edge.

—FAUSTINO A. OLOWAN, councilor, Baguio City

Higher fines to improve traffic flow

WE write in connection with the article in the INQUIRER's Feb. 6 issue, titled "Groups seek Abalos ouster" which was about the opposition of some public transport groups to our proposal to increase the fines for traffic violations.

We have studied this plan and are convinced that this will be a good and effective measure to complement our campaign for a traffic congestion-free metropolis. Nevertheless, we expect the public, especially the concerned sectors, to form and air their opinions, both for and against the issue.

Some transport groups are against this scheme. They demand that we look for a long-term solution to the traffic problem. This is exactly what we are doing. The best long-term solution for us is to create a collective consciousness among our motorists to obey traffic rules and regulations. Once we have done this, traffic congestion will no longer be a problem in Metro Manila.

The increases in fines are not intended to raise the collection of our agency. We have noticed that a lot of motorists do not mind paying the fine every time they got apprehended because they are too small. We want to impose a larger amount so as to deter them from disregarding traffic rules. We do not aim to increase our collection from the money being paid by the violators. We aim to lessen our collection by having them obey the rules and not having to pay anymore.

This plan is not a threat to motorists. If they abide by the rules and regulations, then they have nothing to worry about. Instead of being apprehensive, they should be comforted with the thought that this campaign aims to stop reckless and irresponsible driving, which will result in a smoother flow of traffic and fewer traffic accidents.

Contrary to some people's claim, our traffic enforcers will not "have a field day" issuing citations to motorists "at the slightest provocation." If motorists feel that they are wrongly and unjustly apprehended, they can contest their case through our Traffic Adjudication Board (TAB). If proven that our personnel indeed erred in issuing the citation, the violations will be canceled and the drivers will not have to pay anything.

On the other hand, our traffic enforcers must make sure that they are right in issuing traffic violation receipts (TVRs) because incorrect apprehensions will reflect negatively on their performance record.

It is not true that our traffic enforcers enjoy a 30-percent share of the fines. They get only 10 percent.

We do not understand why a lot of people feel threatened by this proposal. They should bear in mind that if they do what they ought to do, which is follow traffic rules and regulations, they have nothing to fear. We do not penalize the innocent.

We want to improve the traffic flow. This is the reason we are doing these programs. We aim to have disciplined motorists and a safer metropolitan traffic.

—BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, chair, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, MMDA Bldg., Edsa cor. Orense Street, Guadalupe, Makati City

Will Dennis Venturina finally get justice?

MY wife and I are both 82 years old now. In 1994, two years after our golden wedding anniversary, we lost our grandson. A grandson full of hopes and ambitions. His name was Dennis.

Dennis Fabela Venturina died at the early age of 20. A consistent scholar at the University of the Philippines with a lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer, he could have pursued his scholarship at Georgetown University in New York. But on Dec. 8, 1994, he was bludgeoned to death while having lunch on the university campus. There was no hazing, no fraternity rumble but simply a merciless attack by a group of rival fraternity members armed with bats and lead pipes.

Dennis was an only son and the only grandson who would have continued the Venturina lineage. He was our first grandson, a bundle of joy to us in spite of being born prematurely, weighing barely five pounds.

We only have memories of Dennis now, the medals and honors he received from the Lourdes School of Mandaluyong and UP and pictures of our happy days together.

The case is due for promulgation on Feb. 28, 2002, in the sala of Judge Jose Mendoza of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court 219, after seven agonizing years. It is a day after Dennis' birthday and two days before my wife and I celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. There is no other gift we can ask God but justice for our dear Dennis. Justice for our beloved grandson. Justice for a shattered dream.

—BENEDICTO V. VENTURINA, 41 San Lorenzo St., Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City

Law needed to protect HMO clients

THIS is with reference to health maintenance organizations (HMOs) which close shop on account of bankruptcy.

Do disenfranchised HMO members have anyone to turn to for relief? The Department of Health is useless once the HMO is already closed. The Insurance Commission has no mandate to look into HMO problems. The Department of Trade and Industry has no jurisdiction since HMOs are not covered by the Consumer's Act. And the Securities and Exchange Commission has a hands-off policy regarding complaints about HMOs. Thus, HMO members will have no hospitalization coverage in spite of the fact that they may still have some months left in their contracts. HMO members have to pay again for the months that they have already paid.

Although health has never been a priority in the Philippines, the Constitution provides under Section 15, Article II on State Policies, that "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." Section 11, Article XIII on Health, provides, that "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost."

I would like to call the attention of the members of Congress, particularly Sen. Juan Flavier, to this problem so that they will pass a law providing protection to HMO consumers.

—EMMANUEL MAPILI, House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal, Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Answers found to Chile's disappeared

FEATURE

Louise Egan

SANTIAGO, Chile—Graciela Aranguiz's wrinkled face settles into a frown as she surveys the human skeleton carefully laid out on a metal tray before her. Her six grown daughters hold her steady and wipe their tears in the charged silence of the pink-walled forensics laboratory.

Fragments of worn bones, exhumed from an unmarked grave, have been glued together to form ribs, a pelvis, limbs. A column of vertebrae is crowned with a skull, pieced together like a three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle, bearing a full set of teeth and what is clearly a bullet hole through the scalp. Tiny twig-like bits recreate hands, fingers, toes. Graciela is finally setting eyes on her son, Jorge, 29 years after he disappeared.

Even the clothes the 19-year-old fish vendor wore the day the military arrested him after Augusto Pinochet's 1973 coup have been unearthed and now adorn a headless dummy that seems to stand guard beside the skeleton.

Men and women in white lab coats, who a few minutes earlier set up this grisly exhibit like props on a stage, stand by solemnly, ready to answer any questions the family might have.

"By the time we hand a body over, we know so much about the person that we feel we know them. But we can't cry with the family, we have to be strong," says Patricia Hernandez, chief doctor of the identification unit at the government forensics department.

Hernandez and a team of forensics experts, helped by new DNA technology introduced in Chile for the first time last year, work to put names to the bodies that continue to turn up in secret graves throughout the country, the latest in early February. They labor quietly behind the scenes to provide some long-awaited answers to one of the darkest episodes in Chilean history—answers the military itself has never provided.

The ritual that helped Graciela close a prolonged grieving process has been repeated with 207 other cadavers that have been recovered in the past decade, a fraction of the 1,185 who went missing during Pinochet's iron rule from 1973 to 1990.

"Each time, we prove the barbarities that were committed. To know that the death was a homicide can help history even if it doesn't bring about justice," said Isabel Reveco, a former doctor at the department who now works independently.

The aging Pinochet, 86, is slowly fading into a figure of the past since Chilean courts ruled him unfit to stand trial for human rights crimes last year. But the approximately 50 sets of bones of his victims that sit in cardboard boxes in a storeroom, still unidentified, are a daily reminder to the forensics staff that many details of Chile's recent past have been hushed.

Hernandez and her assistants examine the skeletons using traditional forensics methods to determine date of death, gender, age and height. Families provide medical and dental records, X-rays and photographs in the hopes of finding a match.

The raven-haired doctor, who gives the families her home phone number, likens this emotionally draining job to that of a family physician. "It's like the relationship a doctor has with the mother of a sick child. Parallel to treating the child, you have to help the mother, or the family."

Some cases cannot be solved by these techniques and are therefore passed on to the DNA Laboratory, the second tier of the identification process that since March 2001 uses the most advanced technology available to analyze mitochondrial DNA. DNA from mitochondria, self-replicating structures found in the cytoplasm of human cells, is easier to recover from older, degraded bone samples than is nuclear DNA, found in the chromosome. Until last year, the lab's success rate was hindered because it relied solely on nuclear DNA typing technology.

But the process—the same one being used by US authorities to identify victims of the World Trade Center attacks—is extremely slow and has frustrated many families who thought the new equipment would lead to quick solutions.

Since mitochondrial DNA is maternally inherited, the lab has called on all female relatives of the victims to register with its DNA data bank, which requires pricking a finger so that a sample can be extracted from the drop of blood.

The scientists try to match DNA sequences taken from the skeletons to those of the family members. Graciela's son, whose body was exhumed in 1992, was only identified in January 2002 thanks to this tool.

The process involves pulverizing a piece of bone with a special machine at freezing temperatures, using liquid nitrogen. The powder is then treated with a chemical solution that permits the release of DNA from the cells. A segment of the DNA is amplified many millions of times and sequenced.

"We have a huge challenge here. It is not an easy process and is very slow," said acting DNA Lab director Victor Saragoni.

Nine disappeared were identified in the first nine months of using the new technology.

On the day Graciela receives her son, forensic dentist Lily Ramirez has the thankless job she believes the tight-lipped Chilean military should have assumed long ago, telling the family the truth about what happened to Jorge.

The young man—who had no political involvement—was shot in the head and stomach from behind while kneeling. His ribs were fractured, indicating he was beaten first, she tells them.

Later, after recovering from their initial shock at seeing the skeleton, the sisters gently lift the fragile bones one by one, ceremoniously, and hand them to the forensics staff who place them in a baby-sized coffin, taping them down so they won't rattle. One woman touches her lips to the skull.

Jorge's remains now occupy a niche beside the memorial to the disappeared in Santiago's cemetery.

"Everything has changed for me now. There were nights I couldn't sleep. Now I feel peace and tranquillity to know he is resting there and I can rest here," says Graciela in her small home in a poor, rundown neighborhood of Santiago.

The work of the forensics department, however, is far from over. "We can't say this story is over. How can we? We're looking for disappeared people here every day," says Hernandez.

Reuters

Too many road accidents

THE TOWN of Bangui, Ilocos Norte, has had too many road accidents. Just last Jan. 14, for instance, a minibus with 14 children on board was hit by an Everjoy bus, leaving three dead and 11 injured.

We need help to bring this to the attention of authorities who can do something to control or prevent such accidents. We no longer can rely on our own local officials. People who do not know how to drive are known to drive vehicles, some even without licenses.

This has got to stop. Please help us in our efforts to reduce the number of those who die from senseless road accidents.

—WITH 12 SIGNATORIES, Bangui National High School, Bangui, Ilocos Norte

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Sharon plans security buffer zones

SHARON

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has announced plans to create buffer zones to protect against Palestinian attacks, while UN Secretary General Kofi Annan urged both sides to consider new ways to stem the violence.

In a televised address to the nation on Thursday, Sharon vowed not to rest until Palestinian "terrorist infrastructures" were destroyed, as he again sent helicopters to pound Palestinian security installations in the Gaza Strip.

The only specific plan he raised was the creation of a buffer zone along the borders with the Palestinian territories to provide a "security separation for all Israelis," including Jewish settlers.

"We will continue to fight terrorism and terrorists with all our might and will intensify our activities. We will not rest . . . until terrorist infrastructures are dismantled," said Sharon.

But the right-wing premier said he would do everything he could "to avoid escalation and deterioration into an all-out war."

Criticized by both the right and left of the Israeli political scene, Sharon's speech also met instant Palestinian condemnation.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said the speech proved Sharon aimed to "continue his war and aggression and escalation against our people and our authority, and to destroy the Palestinian Authority and then destroy the peace process."

"We and the Israeli people need peace and security but Sharon until now is not giving peace, quiet and security for Israelis," he said.

In Israel, the head of the left-wing opposition Meretz party, Yossi Sarid, said the address was devoid of content: "I haven't heard anything new in this speech."

Jewish settlers in the occupied Palestinian territories said the buffer zone proposal would do nothing to foil attacks by Palestinian radicals.

The speech came as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat renewed a ceasefire pledge, and on a day which saw 10 Palestinians killed—part of a week of heightened violence that has left about 70 dead.

But Annan told a public session of the UN Security Council later Thursday that previous proposals for ceasefires and confidence-building measures were outdated, urging both sides to embrace fresh initiatives. *AFP*

Sri Lanka, Tamil Tigers clinch truce

COLOMBO—Norway clinched a historic open-ended ceasefire in Sri Lanka Thursday hours after Tamil Tiger rebels and government forces fought a fierce sea battle that killed at least three sailors, sources said.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's government gave its consent to a document prepared by Norway after talks with officials as well as the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), top diplomatic sources said.

The LTTE has also given the nod to the cessation of hostilities pact which will come into effect after Norway makes a formal announcement that it has received the agreement of both parties.

The LTTE's London-based chief negotiator, Anton Balasingham, confirmed that the two sides had agreed to the bilateral truce which was expected to go into effect from Sunday.

Balasingham told IBC, a pro-rebel radio station in London, that the LTTE had given its approval to the truce agreement proposed by the Norwegian government.

A spokesperson for the prime minister's office said Wickremesinghe was due to meet with President Chandrika Kumaratunga later Thursday with an official announcement by Oslo on the bilateral truce expected on Friday.

The latest ceasefire is the first bilateral truce in seven years. In 1995, a ceasefire ended after 100 days when Tiger rebels attacked two Navy gunboats near the northeastern port of Trincomalee.

"The ceasefire this time is going to be very much on the lines of the 1995 agreement with two key additions," an official source said.

Unlike in 1995, the truce will be monitored by Scandinavians, while both sides are required to give two week's notice if they want to pull out of the ceasefire, compared with three days under the previous deal, the sources said.

Wickremesinghe announced last week that he expected initial talks with Tiger rebels to open by March or April.

The truce came despite a heavy naval battle off the island's northeastern coast on Thursday between government forces and a flotilla of Tiger boats, which left three sailors dead. *AFP*

British troops attacked anew

KABUL—Interim Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah Thursday insisted the security situation in Afghanistan was improving despite an attack on British paratroops by unidentified gunmen in the capital.

The shooting, and the killing last week of the aviation minister, "shouldn't be perceived as part of the overall security situation in Afghanistan, which is improving day by day," Abdullah told CNN.

"Everything has improved since the inauguration of the interim government, including the security situation," he said.

"There will be some incidents, individual incidents in the overall situation. We have over a million people who are armed in this country but that situation will change," he said, without giving any details or timeframe.

British paratroopers, part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) deployed in Kabul, came under attack from unidentified gunmen during a routine patrol and returned fire.

British Capt. Graham Dunlop said there were no casualties on either side in the shooting in the western part of the Afghan capital around 8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

It was the second such reported incident, although the first alleged attack early Saturday is disputed by the family of a man who died when the British troops fired.

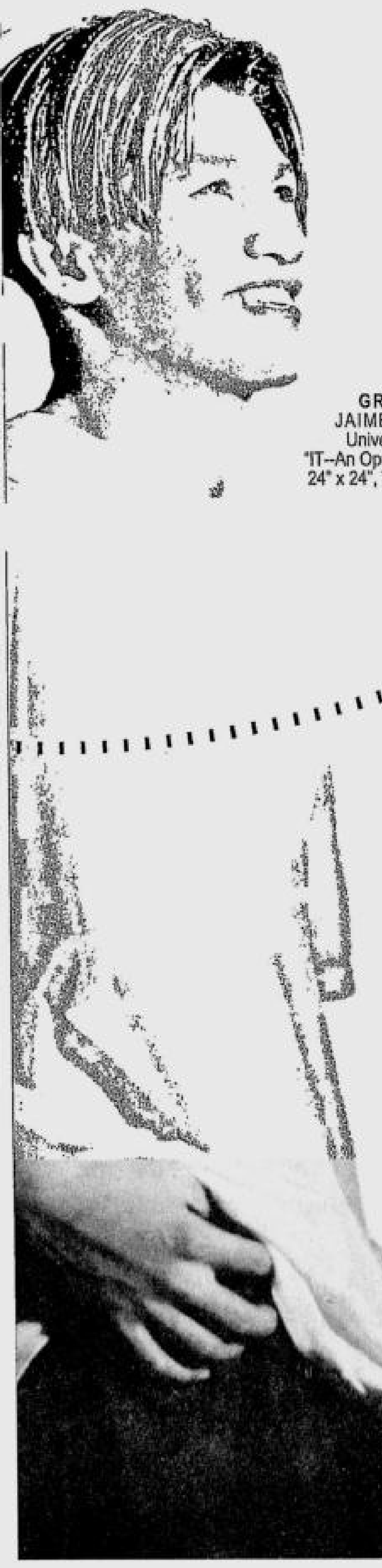
Relatives say he was an innocent civilian trying to rush his pregnant sister-in-law to hospital to give birth when their car was fired on unprovoked.

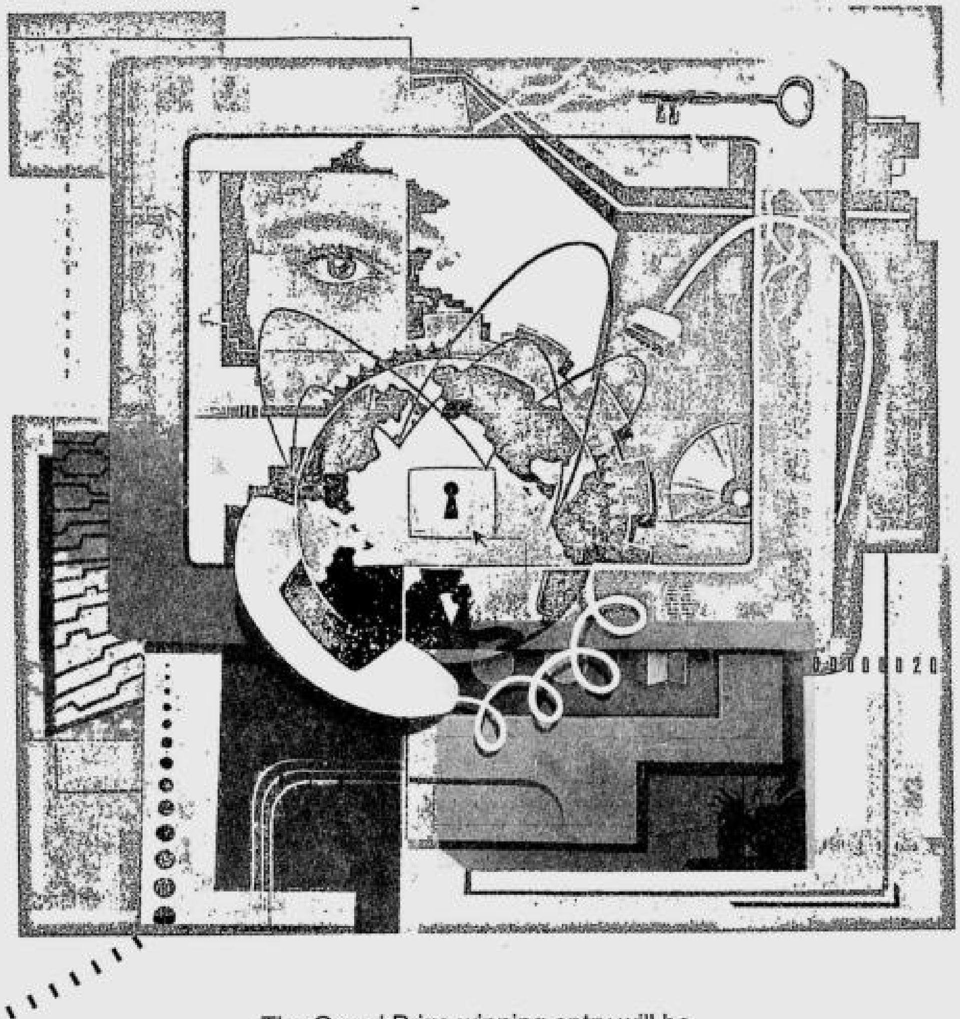
Concerns over security have been highlighted by violence in the provinces and the killing at Kabul's airport last Thursday of the aviation and tourism minister, Abdul Rahman. *AFP*

Congratulations to the winners of the 16th 2002-2003 PLDT-DPC Telephone Directory Cover Visual Art National Competition!

Theme: Communication in the I.T. World

See the WORLD of I.T. THROUGH THEIR eyes.

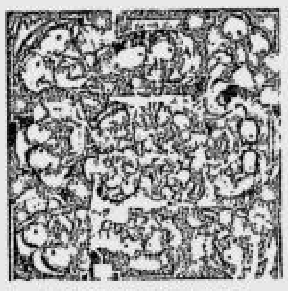




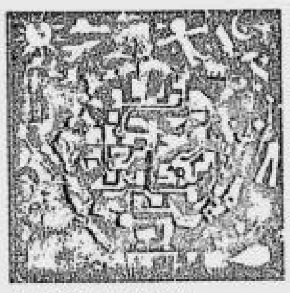
GRAND PRIZE
JAIME B. GUBATON
University of the East
"IT–An Opening to a New World"
24" x 24", Tempera (Watercolor)

The Grand Prize winning entry will be on the front cover of the 2002-2003 PLDT-DPC Metro ManilaTelephone Directory.

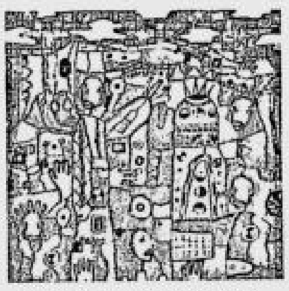
Exhibit until February 28, 2002 at the Ayala Museum, Makati Stock Exchange Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City.



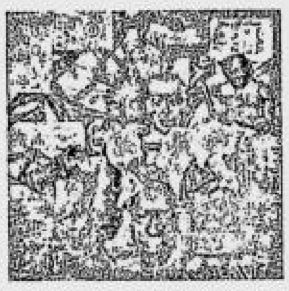
2nd MERVIN F. PIMENTEL
Far Eastern University
"Bagong Sibol ng Pagbabago"
29" x 29", Oil on canvas



3rd RYAN A. GARAY
University of the East
"Keeping IT Alive" (then,now,forever)
29" x 29", Poster color on board



4th ERIC J. MADLANGBAYAN
Technological Univ.of the Phil.
"Tomorrow's World Today"
18" x 18", Mixed media



5th REXELL S. LIVELO
Philippine Women's Univ.
"Bagong Panahon,
Bagong Komunikasyon"
27" x 27", Mixed media

1st Honorable Mention
MARK RAMSEL N. SALVATUS III
University of Santo Tomas
"IT: Eye On The World,
Our Window To The World"
29" x 29", Mixed media

2nd Honorable Mention
ROLANDO C. MANAHAN, JR.
Bulacan State University
"Sa Mundo ng Kaalaman,
Ano, Paano, Kailan, Saan"
29" x 29", Mixed media

3rd Honorable Mention
SIMOUN ESEQUIEL B. QUILANG
Far Eastern University
"Conversing with Contentment"
24" x 24", Pen and ink

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PILGRIMS' PRAYERS Pilgrims recite sunrise prayer on the plain of Arafat, near Mecca as they perform wuquf on the ninth day of Dzulhijjah, the month of haj, Feb. 21. In Arafat, the climax of the rites, pilgrims recite portions of the Koran and give intense prayers.

REUTERS

Rumsfeld says Afghan deaths in botched raid 'unfortunate'

WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Thursday that 43 Afghans killed or captured in a US special forces raid last month were not al-Qaida guerrillas or Taliban fighters as originally suspected.

Rumsfeld, announcing preliminary results of a month-long investigation, called the deaths of 16 Afghans "unfortunate" but declined to apologize for the botched Jan. 23 attack on two compounds north of Kandahar.

He said the backers of a local leader were killed after firing on US troops. Fourteen died at one compound and two at another.

"Why would there be? I can't imagine why there would be," he responded when asked at a news briefing if any disciplinary action was planned in the wake of a month-long US military investigation of the dual raid at Hazar Qadam in southern Afghanistan.

"They had instructions from me and from their commanders to be leaning forward, not back," Rumsfeld said of the US action. "My impression is they did their jobs."

US forces took 27 Afghans from the raid into detention and later released them. The CIA has distributed at least $1,000 in cash to each of the families of the Afghans killed in that attack.

"It appears to the people who reported to me that, in fact, these (captured or killed) individuals were not Taliban or al-Qaida," Rumsfeld told reporters when asked about the military investigation by the US Central Command of the late-night raid.

Rumsfeld and Air Force Gen. Richard Myers said the action was launched after weeks of careful intelligence observation in the search for Taliban and al-Qaida guerrilla leaders. They denied that some Afghans might have been killed after they were handcuffed.

"The suggestion that anyone was mistreated in captivity was not correct," Rumsfeld said.

"They certainly weren't shot in their handcuffs," said Myers, chair of the US military Joint Chiefs of Staff. "You put the quick plastic straps on to subdue people. And some of those may have been shot, so while they're waiting for medical care you handcuff them."

The raid was part of a continuing hunt by American forces for Taliban fighters and members of fugitive Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida guerrilla group. Bin Laden, who was harbored by the Taliban in Afghanistan, is blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on America.

Reports from Afghanistan have said that those killed and captured were supporters of the US-backed interim Afghan government and were guarding a large cache of weapons turned in by soldiers of the country's deposed Taliban rulers. *Reuters*

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Colombia bombs rebel camps in 'Death' campaign

SAN VICENTE, Colombia—Colombian warplanes bombed Marxist guerrilla camps in "Operation Death" on Thursday after the government ditched peace talks and began closing down a rebel enclave in an escalation of a 38-year-old war.

Jets packed with 225-kg bombs flew 56 sorties during the night and early morning against FARC rebel targets in country around the town of San Vicente in the heart of what had been the guerrilla safe haven, officials said.

The military aired footage of the action and air force chief Hector Fabio Velasco said 13 multiple-site targets—including camps containing arms, chemicals and fuel—were destroyed in the Switzerland-sized southern jungle area.

One Israeli-made Kfir jet was hit by machinegun fire but returned to base unharmed, Velasco added, providing no estimate of guerrilla casualties.

But nearly a day after President Andres Pastrana launched "Operation Thanatos"—a reference to the personification of death in ancient Greek mythology—there was no sign of an immediate push by ground troops to retake the area.

Some 100,000 civilians woke up in a no man's land after Pastrana on Wednesday night ordered troops back into the enclave he ceded the 17,000-strong Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, when peace talks began in late 1998.

Outraged by a spectacular hijacking and kidnapping on Wednesday, Pastrana declared negotiations with the FARC dead.

With uneasy calm reigning in the area on Thursday, Pastrana told reporters the country was now back to where it had been 38 years ago "with the big difference that now our armed forces are much more prepared, much more equipped." *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Bush preaches to Chinese

BEIJING—President George W. Bush urged China to embrace US-style democracy and religious freedom Friday as he wrapped up a visit long on warm words but short on concrete progress in bridging Sino-US divides. "Life in America shows that liberty, paired with law, is not to be feared. In a free society, diversity is not disorder, debate is not strife, and dissent is not revolution," he said in a speech at Beijing's elite Qinghua University. The nationally televised address capped a week-long Asia trip that included stops in Tokyo and Seoul and saw Bush meet with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and his heir apparent, little-known career cadre Hu Jintao. *AFP*

Nepal rebels kill 37

KATMANDU—Maoist guerrillas launched a string of attacks across Nepal, killing 37 people after a state of emergency was extended, officials said on Friday. The rebels hurled a bomb at a police post in the remote Sallyan district in west Nepal, killing 32 policemen and wounding 15 others late on Thursday. "They came in the hundreds and they asked local villagers, including women and children, to accompany them as human shields," said Rudranath Basyal, Chief District Officer of the Sallyan district. There were 75 policemen on duty at the time. Rebels also threw a petrol bomb at a truck in Chitaun district, 130 km southwest of Katmandu early on Friday, killing five people and injuring four. The attacks came as the rebels called for a two-day general strike across the poverty-ridden nation starting on Friday to mark the sixth anniversary of their uprising. In the past, vehicles defying a strike order by the rebels have been attacked. *Reuters*

17 dead in Russia jet crash

MOSCOW—Seventeen people, mostly naval officers, were killed when a military transport plane crashed near an airport in northern Russia, emergency ministry officials said Friday. Several high-ranking officers and two passengers, a woman and a child, were killed when the An-26 attempted an emergency landing a few kilometers from the Lakhta airport, the Interfax news agency quoted officials as saying. Three of the transport plane's 20 passengers survived the crash, but suffered injuries and have been hospitalized. A hastily assembled delegation of Russian defense ministry officials and top naval officers flew to the site to investigate the incident. *AFP*

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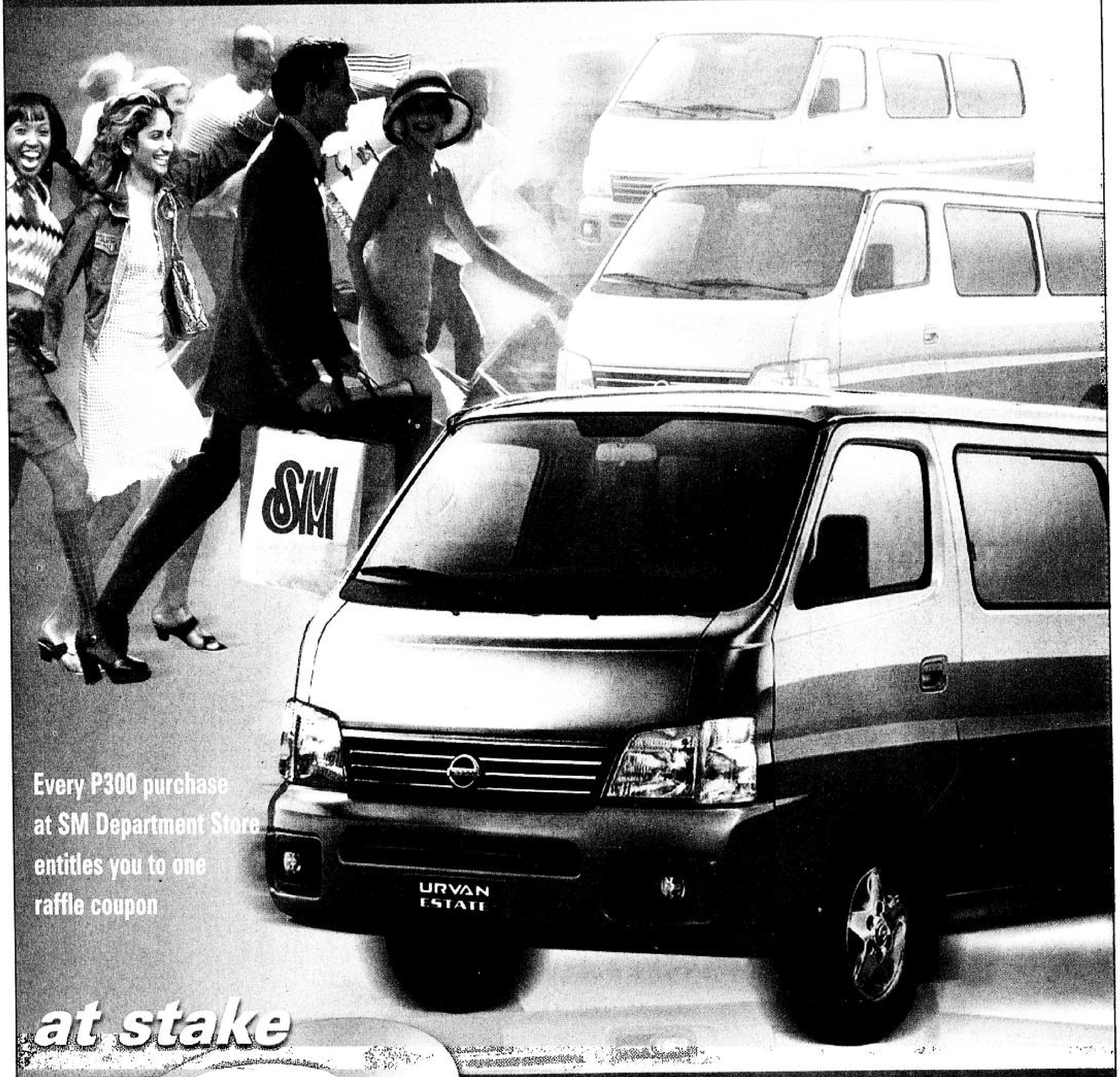

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Leftist leader, 5 supporters missing

ANGELES CITY—A leader and five supporters of the leftist Bagong Alyansang Makabayan were abducted in three separate incidents in Nueva Ecija, Aurora and Tarlac this month. They have remained missing since then, the human rights group Karapatan said here Friday.

In a statement, Sr. Conchita Valerio, Karapatan-Central Luzon vice chair, blamed the spate of abductions on military and police operatives in the region.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Army's Northern Luzon Command, said he has no knowledge of the Nueva Ecija and Tarlac abductions. He said military information showed that there was no Army soldier involved in the reported abduction in Aurora.

The disappearances, according to Valerio, were "eloquent proof that the military and the police are stepping up their drive against the civilian populace to stifle the growing people's movement against Balikatan 02-1 and US military intervention in Philippine internal affairs."

Karapatan said Cesario Orcino Jr., 44, and Honorio Ayroso, 34, a trader of onions and a former activist, were snatched on Feb. 7 at the Encarnacion Subdivision in San Jose City.

Orcino, an organizer of Bayan and the party-list group Bayan Muna, was aboard a tricycle with Ayroso when the tricycle was stopped by a man who insisted on riding in the backseat of the vehicle.

Two other men, both armed with long firearms, appeared and pointed their guns at Ayroso and Orcino. They told the two to alight. But the two, sensing danger, held on to the tricycle and started shouting to call the residents' attention.

A fact-finding team of Karapatan-Nueva Ecija said the tricycle driver was told by the armed men to leave his tricycle. The tricycle, driven by one of the suspects, reportedly sped toward an Army camp in San Jose.

Ayroso and Orcino were seized on Feb. 9 but it was only four days ago that their respective families started looking for them.

It was not unusual for the two, according to their families, to be away for several days and even a week. They were only alarmed when the two had not come home for almost two weeks.

Karapatan's efforts to locate the two have been hampered by the refusal of the witness to cooperate. According to Valerio, the abductors threatened the witness not to talk.

In Aurora, Valerio claimed Army soldiers took Rowena Bayani, a trader, and Edwin Villaruz, a tricycle driver, in Barangay Cabituculan West in Maria Aurora town on Feb. 4.

She said two more Bayan supporters were seized in Tarlac last week. The circumstances of their disappearances were still being verified. ***Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Japanese cyclists join protests vs San Roque dam

SAN MANUEL, Pangasinan—Aware that their forefathers conquered the country through military might, young Japanese cyclists protested their government's attempts to dominate the Philippines through economic power.

Participants in the Peace Cycle 2002, a project of Japan-based Santama Peace Cycle Network, picketed the gate of the Japan-funded San Roque multipurpose dam project on Thursday and called for a stop to the dam's construction.

The picket was the third leg of the seven-day cycling and integration activity of the Peace Cycle 2002, which was also joined by the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, Manggagawa para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan and Anti-Globalization Movement-Baguio City.

The activity aims to expose Japan's political and economic policies that have proved to be detrimental to weaker economies like the Philippines.

Kayoko Sushitani, 20, and her sister Yukimo, 19, joined the cyclists to protest the use of Japan's Official Development Assistance to fund projects like the San Roque Dam.

"I studied about the San Roque Dam and learned that it is going to break the indigenous people's culture here. A village, a beautiful place, will go under water and the dam will destroy a very precious environment. This is why my sister and I decided to join this protest," Kayoko said.

Hiduki Morita, president of the Peace Cycle 2002, said many Japan-based non-government organizations are against the construction of the San Roque Dam and have asked the Japanese foreign ministry and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to reconsider financing the construction of the dam's irrigation component. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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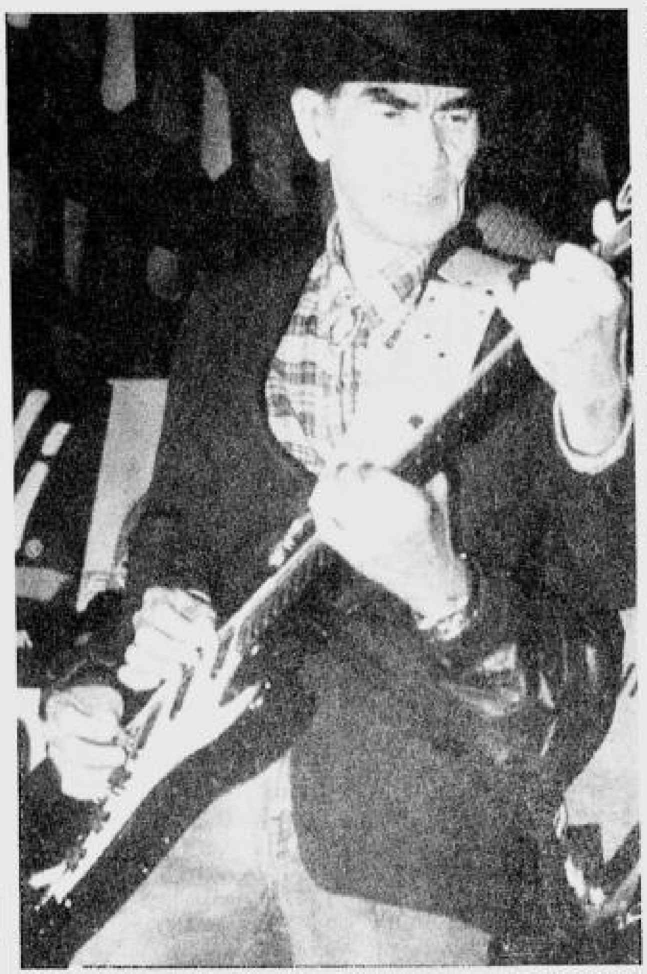

TOOTS SOBERANO

TRICK
A guitar player in Baguio City appears to have four hands as he plays his instrument during a recent concert. Behind him, though, is the owner of the second set of hands, a fellow band member who joins in the trick.

21 W. Visayas schools plan new tuition hikes

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—At least 21 schools in Western Visayas will increase their tuition next school year, data from the regional office of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) showed.

Freddie Maningo, tuition coordinator of the CHEd regional office, said the schools have submitted a letter of intent to increase their fees.

The schools represent 17 percent of the total 121 schools in the region with around 198,000 students. Of the total number of schools, 73 are privately owned, six are community colleges, 27 are CHEd-supervised, and 15 are state universities and colleges.

Maningo said school administrators have until Feb. 28 to conduct consultations with representatives of the faculty, employees, students and parents where they will set the rates of the proposed increase.

After holding consultations, the schools have until April 1 to submit the results of the consultations, specifically the rate of increases that will be implemented, and other requirements.

Last year, 46 schools or 35 percent increased their tuition fees by an average of 13 percent. The average tuition in private tertiary schools in the region stands at P235 per unit.

Eight schools in Iloilo will increase their fees. These are the John B. Lacson Colleges Foundation-Arevalo, the STI College-Iloilo, the St. Therese College, the Cabalum Western College, the University of San Agustin, the Colegio de San Jose, the Colegio del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus and the AMA College-Iloilo.

In Negros Occidental, nine schools will increase their fees. These are the Colegio San Agustin-Bacolod, the Binalbagan Catholic School, the University of Negros Occidental Recoletos, the La Salle College-Victorias, the Riverside College, the Kabankalan Catholic College, the AMA College-Bacolod, the Fellowship Baptist College and the STI-Bacolod.

Other schools that are planning to increase tuition are the St. Anthony's College in Antique, the Garcia College of Technology, the Aklan College in Kalibo, Aklan and the Filamer Christian College in Roxas City, Capiz.

Militant youth groups including Anakbayan, League of Filipino Students, Student Christian Movement of the Philippines and Samahan ng mga Mag-aaral at Kabataang Kababaihan vowed to hold protest actions against the increases.

Group seeks to bring together opponents, proponents of GMOs

DAVAO CITY—An agricultural group in Northern Mindanao said it would gather the proponents of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and groups opposing the technology in an effort to spare the farmers from damages arising from the controversy.

Dr. Iso Montalvan, representative of the Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Industries of Northern Mindanao, Inc. (Caffinormin), said that they expect both parties to positively respond to an invitation for a gathering in Bukidnon next month.

"We will (try to) reconcile the issues, because farmers would try things that promise them the highest production at the lowest cost," Montalvan said.

During the National Corn Congress, which they are going to hold March 18 and 19 in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, Montalvan said among those invited were representatives from Greenpeace.

Militant groups have been vigorously opposing the field trials of Bt-corn in General Santos City and Bukidnon.

The same groups have, in various occasions, uprooted Bt-corns in the testing farms of seed-giant Monsanto in the two areas.

Montalvan said should Greenpeace advocate fail to attend the Bukidnon congress, they would still be given a chance to heard during a follow up activity in Cagayan de Oro City on April 3-5.

"We will allow more venues like these for discussion between pro- and anti- GMO advocates," she said.

Montalvan said the discussions would help enlighten those who still have to learn about GMOs.***Joel Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Eastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI31° Lo 20°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 19°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 18°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 19°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/02/23/02

ROUNDUP

Soldiers raid NPA camp

DAVAO CITY—Government troops raided a New People's Army camp in Compostela Valley and seized high-powered firearms early Tuesday. Reports reaching the regional police office here said soldiers belonging to the Army's 60th Infantry Battalion pulled the surprise raid on a rebel camp in Barangay Casoon in Monkayo town. Ten guerrillas led by Dionesio Tongco alias Commander Bebot tried to fight back but were overpowered by the troops. Among those recovered from the rebels were a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launcher, an M-60 assault machine-gun and an M16 Armalite rifle. ***Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

500 trees burn

BAGUIO CITY—More than 500 pine and fruit bearing trees were destroyed by fire this week. FO2 Cesar Bangcawayan of the Bureau of Fire Protection said more than six hectares of communal forest burned on Tuesday and Wednesday. Five hectares of the land were part of a watershed in Barangay Military Cut-off here while two hectares were in Petersville Subdivision along Kennon Road and in Tuding, Benguet. ***Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Visit from Batanes

BASCO, Batanes—A delegation from Batanes, led by Rep. Florencio Abad and Gov. Vicente Gato, will revisit this week the Ivatans who have resettled in Mindanao. The group is also expected to launch social programs for former Batanes settlers there. Abad first visited the Ivatans in Mindanao when he was agrarian reform secretary. He said the Ivatans in Bukidnon were known as hardworking and enterprising farmers. He said the Ivatans had kept their culture and influenced some Muslims to speak the Ivatan language. ***Juliet Cataluña, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Animal research center

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry and the livestock council here have opened a research outreach station that intends to promote the livestock industry and increase the population of cattle in Cagayan Valley. Regional Agriculture Director Gumersindo Lasam said the station would help increase the number of animals through artificial insemination, proper preservation and dispersal of genetic materials of superior quality animals. ***Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

'Hot' lumber seized

LEGAZPI CITY—Joint elements of the Philippine Navy, the Philippine Army and the Department of Environment of Natural Resources here seized at least 2,600 board feet of illegal lumber worth about P52,000 on the shores of Barangay Victory Village here around 5 p.m. Wednesday. Navy Bicol chief Lt. Jr. Grade Wilberto Formoso said they confiscated 127 flitches of *duguan* and *lauaan* lumber of different sizes and turned these over to the DENR.

Fisher survives

TABACO CITY—A fisherman survived while another one is still missing after their boat capsized in Catanduanes near the Pacific Ocean. Survivor Henry Balingbing said he and Eduardo Buasan of San Miguel Island, this city, went fishing near Barangay Pananaogan, Virac, Catanduanes on Feb. 15. Strong winds and big waves struck their boat, causing it to sink. Balingbing said he shared with Buasan a styrofor box cover to stay afloat and swim to shore in the darkness of the night. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

43 traders arrested

CALAPAN CITY—The Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture and local officials here arrested 43 vendors with defective weighing scales while they were enforcing "Operation Timbang" in markets and stores here and the towns of Victoria, Pinamalayan and Naujan. Sammy Linatoc, DTI Consumer Welfare Division chief, said that under the project, they calibrate the weights, confiscate defective ones and impose a fine of P200 on owners of defective scales. ***Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Local peace talks

LUCENA CITY—Oriental Mindoro Gov. Bartolome Marasigan, Southern Tagalog Regional Peace and Order Council, said he is in favor of local peace talks as it would be easier to hold. He, however, added that the local governments' lack of "appropriate powers" could prevent the localized peace talks from being successful. "We can initiate. But we cannot commit substantive matters, like amnesty and disposition of forces, in case the rebels decided to surrender en masse," he said in a statement. Marasigan said Bongabong, Bansud, Gloria, Roxas, Bulalacao and Mansalay residents have learned to trust the military due to the community-based projects that its units in the areas have launched. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

ERRANT BOMBS

Baguio Muslims fear Afghanistan in Basilan

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY--They may not be as vocal as the protesters against the joint Philippines-United States military war games.

But ordinary Muslims—who peddle cellular phone casings, pirated CDs, and other wares on sidewalks here—also worry about the effects of a military exercise, which, they fear, will only replicate an "Afghanistan scenario" in Basilan.

"I fear another Afghanistan in the making where aerial bombings (aimed at the Abu Sayyaf) will kill and maim both Christian and Muslim civilians," said Ham Agni, 38, a Muslim trader here and father of seven.

Agni's fears were founded on reports about American errant missiles that were traced to "human error," which pulverized not Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network in Afghanistan but innocent village folk, including women and children.

"What happens after the American troops go home after six months?" asked Ustadz Ali, an *imam* and sidewalk vendor here.

"With all their high-tech arms and equipment and their expert advice and training, the American troops, along with our Filipino soldiers, may be able to crush the Abu Sayyaf. But the Abu Sayyaf problem can re-emerge in the future in one form or another," he said.

The 32-year-old *imam* volunteered some reasons.

For one, he said the military cannot wipe out a cause or whatever "principle" the Abu Sayyaf is fighting for besides its kidnap-for-ransom sprees.

"For all we know, some of the Abu Sayyaf leaders and members might have been victims of some injustice," said Ali. "And they might be trying to seek justice in a perverted way such as kidnapping for ransom."

He said he himself was a victim of injustice. But instead of taking the path of extremism, he studied Islam at the University of Waqf in Marawi City.

"All the tragedy and pain I experienced as a young boy, I have lifted them up all to Allah," he told the INQUIRER after leading a mid-afternoon prayer at a mosque here.

Ali showed the physical scars of that tragedy that happened almost 22 years ago. Until now, he is still limping because of a bullet that pierced and deformed his right leg.

It was dawn of Sept. 23, 1980. Ali, then 11, and his family were asleep when a band of Army soldiers swooped down on their village in Ganasi, Lanao del Sur.

The soldiers opened fire at Alis' home. When the smoke cleared around 8 a.m., 10 of Ali's kin, including his parents and siblings, were killed. Only Ali, a younger brother and an aunt survived the carnage.

"Making sure that all of us get killed, some soldiers came nearer to pump in more bullets to the already sprawled bloody bodies," Ali recalled. "I got hit in the shoulder, arms and leg. A soldier was about to finish me off, but a Tausug soldier (a fellow Muslim) pitied me, my younger brother and my aunt," he said.

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INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◉ Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Cebu guitars gently weep

By Marivir Montebon-Auxilio
Cebu City

CEBU'S famous handcrafted guitars are headed for extinction as aging artisans on the bustling island of Mactan would rather not pass the craft to their children than see them get stuck in poverty like them.

The likes of guitar makers Simplicio, Marco, Ruben and Basilio are now in their 50s and 60s, with backs aching and hopes high that none of their children would follow in their footsteps and be poor.

"*Gamay ra og kita ang paghimo og gitara. Gusto ko nga mas maayo og kinabuhi ang akong anak* (Guitar makers don't earn much. I want my children to have better lives)," says Basilio, who works from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and earns a measly P150 for a day's toil.

A guitar maker in Mactan earns P70 to P200 a day. If the guitars are meant for export, a skilled worker finishes only one instrument in two days due to strict quality control.

If the order is meant for the local market, he can produce six guitars a day.

Since the 1980s, the younger generation in Lapulapu City, Mactan's main local government unit (the island has another LGU, the town of Cordova), has preferred to work outside the island or at the Mactan Export Processing Zone for a relatively bigger income and a less tedious job.

Declining interest

Guitar factory owners are bothered by the decline in the number of skilled workers.

Ronie Pangatungan, owner of Opon Guitars in Barangay Pajo, says the situation will be felt drastically in 10 years, as many now prefer jobs that are much easier to perform. Guitar making is an intricate job that demands a lot of special skills honed through the years.

Pangatungan says the quality of their guitars depends on their "veteran" workers who are already in their twilight years. His company, established in 1976, has taken the initiative to train apprentices from among their artisans' children, but only a few have shown interest.

"*Di kaayo daghan ang magpatrain kay gusto man og sayon ug paspas nga trabaho* (Only a few wanted to be trained because they prefer a much easier job)," laments Pangatungan.

He says the need to maintain the number of guitar artisans to sustain the industry is serious because Cebu's competitive edge lies on handmade guitars. At present, competition is stiff between the imported guitars and those locally made.

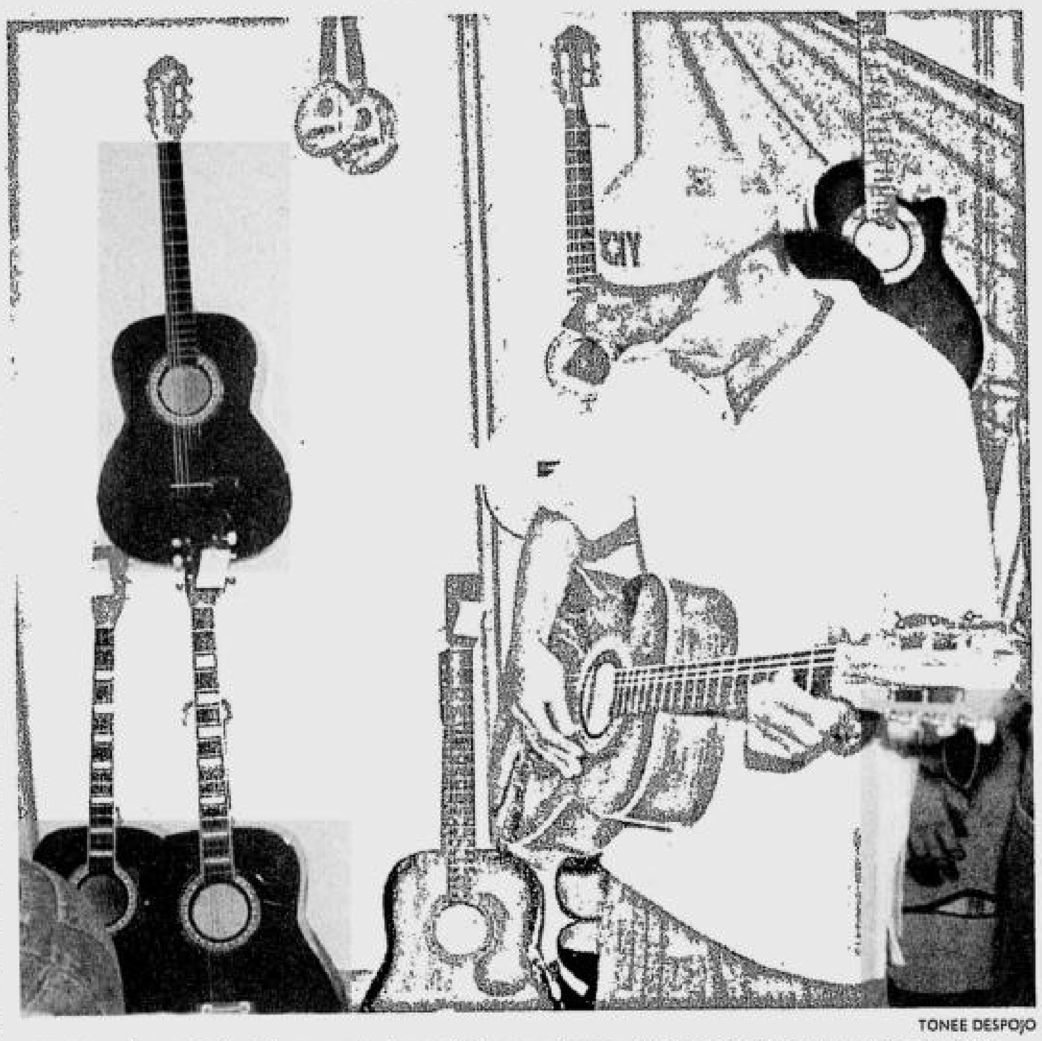
For her part, Exequila "Lilang" Amistad, owner of the famous Lilang's Guitar, sees no immediate solution to the diminishing tribe of skilled guitar makers.

"My only wish is for the skilled workers to encourage their children to learn about the craft. But they cannot be compelled to do it," she says.

Lapulapu City is home to 11 guitar-making companies, which have remained largely cottage-size due to lack of capital and the influx of imported guitars. The income of the workers likewise remains on subsistence level.

The Department of Trade and Industry in Cebu has yet to develop a training program in order to maintain a steady supply of skilled workers.

Antonia Tadlip of the DTI's Countrywide Rural Development Division, however, is optimistic that the industry will survive because of its very nature, which is family-based.


TONEE DESPOJO

GUITAR making in Cebu brings out the best of Cebu's craftsmen, but it hasn't given back profits to them.

"There is no need to fear the possibility of losing skilled workers. The artisans hand down their skills to their children who are not lucky enough to get on to other jobs. And the entrepreneurs pass on their businesses to their children," she says.

Community art

Cebu and Pampanga are known for their world-class handcrafted guitars. In Cebu, the guitar industry had humble beginnings.

Present-day guitar artisans say they learned their craft from their parents when Mactan was still inhabited largely by fishermen and guitar makers.

Before World War II, guitar making on the island was a form of community art. Indigenous finishing materials like soot was used to blacken the instrument and coconut oil was used as varnish.

The stringed instrument was made from hardwood but was smaller than today's conventional guitar.

The home-based artistic practice evolved into a commercial and industrial endeavor for those who had capital. With the brisk demand, work became specialized.

Amistad, who is now 76, recalls that in the post-war era, handmade guitars in her village in Abono cost only P1.50 each. At that time, the guitars were brought to Cebu City and sold at the pier area.

Her business, Amistad says, began quite accidentally in late 1945 when a customer in her grocery store purchased rice on credit and later paid her with a guitar.

She decided to decorate the instrument with colorful ribbons and a belt to make it attractive. A friend decided to sell the adorned piece to the city pier area and it commanded a high price.

"I spent P3.50 for the ribbons and belt. And the guitar was sold at P14. At that time, it was already big money. Since then, I began buying guitars," she recounts.

Strict management

While it only took one man to make one guitar in those days, specialized work units are now involved in the production of guitar parts.

Skilled workers are assigned to create the body, with specific jobs like rough cutting, planning, shaping and routing. The semi-skilled ones do the finishing touches like sanding and lacquer spraying.

The long years of brisk business growth were attributed not only to the high demand for the musical instrument but also to strict management.

"*Estrikto kaayo ko sa pagpasiguro sa kalidad sa mga gitara aron dili mag-mahay ang mopalit* (I am very strict in ensuring quality so that the buyers get their money's worth)," says Amistad.

The expensive guitars today usually costs from P15,000 to P20,000. They are made out of two hardwood species, *kalantas* or *kamagong*, and laid in fiberglass or shell bodies.

The cheap ones cost from P800 to P1,300 and are usually made from *narra* or *dao* wood.

But as to who will take care of the industry and the artisan's sustainability is one question that has remained unanswered.

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What price peace?

LUCID INTERVALS

Rowena V. Guanzon

THE PEOPLE of Negros are not strangers to war. Before 1986 until about 1992, it was a highly militarized province. At one time we had more soldiers and weapons than Davao. In a province where power is based on land, and where the vestiges of feudalism remain, it was easy for the New People's Army to gain the sympathy of the poor and expand its Army. And the military responded with full might. We saw how "Operation Thunderbolt" terrified and dislocated thousands of people and made over 200 children sick. We don't want that to happen again.

But neither are we strangers to peace. It is, after all, what the people, especially in the countryside, want. They just want some peace so they can live with whatever little they have without having to worry about stray bullets or being mistaken as enemies of either side.

So when the government, on Dec. 6, 2000 signed a peace agreement with the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade without consulting the church, the rural communities and other stakeholders, you can understand the uproar. The peace agreement was not even known to the church and other stakeholders until the third quarter of 2001.

If the peace agreement is to bring peace, it must include what the people want. The armed conflict, after all, doesn't involve only the military and the RPA-ABB. It affects people. Without the people's participation, it is but an agreement between the military and the RPA-ABB—part of a military strategy.

The Negros Peace Congress, composed of the Dioceses of Bacolod, Kabankalan, San Carlos, Dumaguete and the Peace Advocates of Negros had a three hour meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo, the RPA-ABB, and Presidential Adviser Eduardo Ermita last Thursday. The agenda was the Negros Peace Congress' request for a supplemental agreement to the Dec. 6, 2000 peace agreement between the RPA-ABB and the government of then President Erap.

The Negros Peace Congress is concerned that the peace agreement does not, among others, clearly define "hostilities." They believe that it should include illegal taxation and recruitment. In addition, the release of political prisoners should be subject to laws.

The P500 million fund is also unclear without guidelines, which could give undue expectations to the RPA. A vague agreement, says the Negros Peace Congress, could later result in hostilities. In negotiations, the terms should be clearly understood by all sides or it would be easy for any party to bolt when it is not to its liking, or when circumstances change.

An ambiguous agreement cannot bring peace; it might just even make matters worse. Once the mechanics have been set in motion, some things can get out of control.

Take Ermita's "option" to use the RPA-ABB as "Cafgus" for example. We have not forgotten how Cafgus worsened the situation in Negros. The military often had to apologize for the Cafgus' abuses. Even the RPA-ABB should not agree to this or they will degrade themselves as a mere "battalion" of the military.

General Ermita's "option" may not happen at all, but by saying that he means a different kind of peace. Already, the church and the people are worried that the RPA in Negros are arresting wanted persons. Did the peace agreement intend to give the RPA the authority to maintain peace and order in their "controlled areas?"

But those who oppose the Negros Peace Congress say that they are just "paranoid," that they favor the New People's Army. When you have lived in a province where armed conflict never stopped, you have a reason to be traumatized. In all those years of heightened armed conflict in the province, the church had been the people's only refuge.

The church has seen bodies, blood and tears. So it does want this peace agreement to succeed. Who doesn't want peace? But will the peace agreement bring peace as it is?

It is good that the President ordered the government, the RPA-ABB and the Negros Peace Advocates to submit their supplemental agreements. Better than having the bishops and priests say their piece from the pulpits.

Cardinal Vidal and Defense Secretary Reyes Rotary International District 3830's Men of Peace

Two distinguished personalities, a man of God and a military man, will be honored today, February 23 on the occasion of the annual Rotary World Peace and Understanding Day. The event, which will be attended by all clubs in Rotary District 3830 under the leadership of Gov. Ernie Salas, will also highlight this year's Rotary Peace Awards.

His Eminence Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal and Honorable Secretary Angelo Tomas Reyes of the Department of National Defense are this year's Rotary Peace awardees.

The World Peace and Understanding Day is Rotary's yearly celebration and serves to highlight and recognize all the selfless and exemplary acts of the awardees who bring hope and encouragement of peace, understanding and harmony to their respective communities and countries.

Among the criteria in the selection of Peace Awards winners are: Respect for the life and dignity of every person without discrimination or prejudice; the rejection of violence towards all people, the harmonious solution to conflict among people within local and world communities; and freedom of expression and cultural diversity, working for better peace and understanding in our world.

Past Rotary Peace Awardees include Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, and His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin.

This year's awardees exemplify the criteria set by Rotary.

His Eminence Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal's support of Edsa II in January 17-19, 2001 led to the peaceful transition of the presidency to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. A former President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and presently a member of three important congregations in the Roman Curia at the Vatican, Cardinal Vidal has been a staunch advocate of peace in the national agenda towards progress and reform.

Defense Secretary Angelo Tomas Reyes has worked towards the Vision of 21st Century Armed Forces, a fully effective, progressively efficient, technology driven,

versatile, responsive armed forces. His mission is to change and reform the soldiers to become visible role models for Filipinos. On January 19,2001 at the height of Edsa II, Reyes led the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines in a

Collective decision to side with the Filipino people's call for genuine reform in society and governance. He was able to maintain the unity and integrity of the Armed Forces, thus preventing bloodshed and chaos. The momentous decision led to a peaceful transition of national leadership and ushered a new hope for truth, honor and decency in public service.

Like the past years celebrations, this year's Rotary Peace Awards will be held at the Makati Park and Garden, where the Rotary Peace Monument is located. Hosted annually by the Rotary Club of Makati San Lorenzo, program will start at 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 23,2002.

Rotary International
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ROTARY
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MESSAGES

I EXTEND my warmest greetings to the members of the Rotary District 3830 on your World Understanding and Peace Day Celebration.

I commend the Rotary District 3830 for spearheading this celebration to promote unity and harmony among all our national and international communities.

I congratulate our esteemed Filipino recipients of the Rotary Peace Awards, His Eminence, Cardinal Vidal and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes whose exemplary work and achievements have greatly contributed to the social and moral transformation of our society.

The pursuit of peace in the context of the present milieu demands that we unite and stand firm in our endeavors to eradicate poverty and terrorism. It is our prayer and hope that we can join hands to achieve a sustainable global economy with every society free from hunger, strife and the evil of terror. United, we can face the challenges of the new millenium and be able to realize our vision of a world free from conflict, ignorance and injustice.

May this event inspire everyone to contribute towards the attainment of lasting peace, unity and brotherhood in the country and the global community.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

WORLD Understanding Month is observed annually in February as a special month in the Rotary world in which emphasis is made to promote understanding and goodwill as essential for world peace.

Significantly, February 23, the anniversary of the first Rotary club meeting is observed as World Understanding and Peace Day, and we in District 3830 has marked this day with the presentation of the "Rotary Peace Award" to men and women who are models exemplar of peace, goodwill and understanding.

On behalf of Rotary District 3830 and the Rotary Peace Awards Committee, I am honored to be with distinguished men and women who are noted for their selfless and noble acts of goodwill, peace and understanding, thereby promoting inspiration in the pursuit of peace in our world.

I congratulate this year's recipients of the Rotary Peace Awards – His Eminence, Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal, Archbishop of Cebu; and Honorable Angelo T. Reyes, Secretary of National Defense – highly-respected individuals who are suffused with the commitment to foster world peace and understanding in support of our national program for peace, understanding and unity among all Filipino.

As the nation's paradigms of peace, their commitment and dedication will further encourage our New Filipino Leaders to espouse goodwill and understanding in the country and the world.

Yours in the spirit of Rotary
ERNESTO "ERNIE" L. SALAS
Governor, District 3830
Rotary Year 2001-2002

PAST AWARDEES

FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON COJUANGCO-AQUINO
Rotary Peace Awardee 1998-1999

The charismatic Mother of the EDSA Revolution who inspired the whole country and the rest of the world for her courageous leadership in the noble crusade in regaining the country's freedom and restoring democracy in the Philippines in the aftermath of the historic EDSA People's Power Revolution in 1986. Even after her presidency, Cory has remained a source of inspiration, providing her gentle wisdom in the country's efforts to maintain peace.

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL VALDEZ RAMOS
Rotary Peace Awardee 1999-2000

His role in EDSA I has hailed him a hero. As Philippine president, Ramos made as his objectives political and economic stability — the unification of the country and revival of the Philippine economy. He met with a communist insurgency movement and Islamic separatists and attempted to disband hundreds of warlord groups engaged in smuggling and drug-running. He launched a reform of the notoriously corrupt police force. To improve the economy he increased production of electric power and encouraged international investment.

HIS EMINENCE JAIME CARDINAL LACHICA SIN
Rotary Peace Awardee 2000-2001

Cardinal Sin, known to all as the Father of EDSA People's Power revolution that restored the democracy in our country in 1986. Cardinal Sin was instrumental in calling the faithful to EDSA to prevent a bloody resolution to the defection from the Marcos regime of then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Vice-Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos. Since then, Cardinal Sin has been a staunch guardian of the country's political and moral stability.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

AG Carol Mercado - *Overall chairperson of the District 3830 Peace and World Understanding Peace Awards*

Members of the committee on District 3830 Peace and World Understanding Peace Awards: AG Maridel Villavicencio; Rotary Club of Makati San Lorenzo Club President Marilou Romero; AG Dieter Brukner; DDG Tony Quila; IPP Ben Figueroa

The Advisory Board: DGN Jun Cortes; District 3830 Governor Ernie Salas; PDG Sony Coloma.

Rotary International's Commitment to a World of Understanding and Goodwill

The concept of Rotary District Peace Communities was conceived in Wagga Wagga, NSW, Australia by Rotarian Tony Quinlivan. In October 1990, Rotarian Tony Quinlivan, then incoming President of Rotary Club Wagga Wagga-Kooringal in New South Wales, Australia, had a vision of introducing a simple Peace project through Rotary, to help bring about Peace among families and communities through out the world. Tony's idea was to have a monument erected in a prominent place in towns and cities throughout the world to remind people of the importance of Peace in our troubled world.

He spoke to World President Paulo Costa in early 1991 about this inspiration, who suggested that the symbol for the monument should cross all political and religious boundaries since Rotary International is a global organization.

The advice of the World President was taken and Tony wrote to a number of world leaders, receiving favorable support especially from His Holiness The Pope and Mother Theresa.

Later in 1991, when Rajendra Saboo became World President of Rotary international, the same year of Tony's presidency of the Rotary Club of Wagga Wagga-Kooringal, he was inspired by President Saboo's theme *"Look Beyond Yourself"* and the symbol of the Dove of Peace flying over the world. He then decided that this symbol was an ideal World Peace Symbol for his Peace Project.

The project was officially approved and launched by his Rotary Club in October 1991and a fellow Rotarian, John Shephered, a monumental mason, was commissioned by the Club to design the Dove symbol and a suitable prototype of the monument.

The members of the Rotary Club in Wagga Wagga organized a celebrity auction and dinner and raised a sum of US$7,000. The fund was beefed up by donations from the Rotary Clubs of Wagga Wagga and South Wagga Wagga to cover the cost of producing a beautiful bronze Dove and erecting a black granite monument on land donated by the City Council of Wagga Wagga, in a great location, next to the Wolundry Lagoon in the center of the city.

On the 23rd of February 1993, Rotary World Understanding and peace Day, the monument was unveiled by Past World President Royce Abbey and the Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga.

- Thus, Wagga Wagga became the 1st Peace Community.

The project was promoted at the Rotary World Convention at Melbourne, Victoria, Australia in 1993. The concept was overwhelmingly accepted by visiting Rotarians, and especially Rotarian Geoffrey Little from the Rotary Club of Wollstonecraft in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. He was instrumental in the mission to spread the concept, being appointed as the club's first ambassador to promote the project around the world. He has traveled extensively, through America, Europe, Japan and the Philippines.

Since then, Peace Communities have been proclaimed throughout Australia and around the globe.

Peace communities are founded in the Rotary ideal of Community Service and the promotion and support of projects encouraging the rejection of violence, the resolution of conflict, and the promotion of community harmony.

In proclaiming peace Communities, cooperative partnerships are formed between Rotary and the local government to identify and reward by public recognition, those individuals and organizations delivering community benefits through voluntary works.

This is the basis of the annual Rotary Peace Awards.

Manila became the first Peace City in Asia. Tony Quinlivan and his wife Patricia, accompanied by fellow Rotarian Kevin Warden and his wife Margaret, attended the declaration ceremony by Mayor Alfredo Lim. They were, in turn, presented with a Key to the City of Manila. Tony presented President Ramos with a Peace symbol plaque in front of over 300,000 people that attended the ceremony. Whilst in Manila, Rotarian Osky Gonzales and Edgie de Asis were made Ambassadors of Peace.

Other Philippine cities followed suit. Zamboanga became the 2nd Peace City.

Sometime in May 1998, Maridel Villavicencio, then Incoming President of the Rotary Club of Makati San Lorenzo, picked up the concept of the Rotary Peace City project.

The pursuit of Makati as a Peace City in the Philippines commenced with the unveiling of the peace monument at the Makati Park and Garden in February 25,1999. Following the unveiling of the statue, which was subsidized by the city's Rotary clubs and the District Governor's Fund, Mayor Elenita Binay proclaimed Makati as the 3rd Rotary Peace City.

In Rotary Year 1999-2000,then Governor Guiller Tumangan supported the move initiated by IPP Carol O. Mercado to elevate the Peace Awards project to District Level.

Davao City, Quezon City and Cebu City also became Rotary Peace cities afterwards.

As in other Peace Cities in the world, Rotary International District 3839, on which Makati is a member, exemplary individuals have been recognized for their selfless efforts to bring hope and encouragement of peace , understanding and harmony to their respective communities and countries.

NEW PAGCOR
The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation supports this year's Rotary Peace Awards in cooperation with Rotary International District 3830 and The Rotary Club of Makati San Lorenzo.

EDWIN BACASMAS

LOOK, who's turning out to be a fan of the President? Former President Fidel Ramos asks her to autograph his copy of Doronila's book at the launch at the Manila Polo Club on Thursday. Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez witnesses a sign of reconciliation.

Erap could not resist a beautiful visitor

By Amando Doronila

(Editor's Note: The former President's eye for beauty planted the seeds of his downfall as the following excerpts from "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story," seem to indicate.)

CLARISSA Emerita Grey Ocampo, married, 45 years of age, with three children, was sworn in as witness at around 5 p.m. of Dec. 22.

She testified that on Feb. 3, 2000 George Go, the Equitable PCI Bank chairperson, introduced her to Fernando Chua, a lawyer for Estrada, at a cocktail party at the Anvil restaurant, on the fifth floor of the bank's Tower 1. Go said Chua represented a bank client who wanted to lend P500 million to the Wellex Group Inc., owned by William Gatchalian. Chua told her that "the principal was very close to. Mr. Gatchalian." Chua said the loan should be released before noon the following day. Gatchalian was known as the "plastics king of the Philippines." He owned Air Philippines, a domestic airline. A drinking buddy of Estrada's, Gatchalian owned the Wellex Group, which operated casino hotels in Cebu.

As trust officer of the bank, Ocampo testified that there was a trust account in the bank in the name of Jose Velarde. The trust account was covered by "several documents with the signature Jose Velarde." The documents were the investment management agreement for the P500 million placement, the directional letter from Jose Velarde to invest in Wellex, the investment guidelines, the signature cards, and the debit/credit authority. She brought these documents to Malacañang for the signature of the President.

According to Ocampo, Chua told her the documents were to be signed in Malacañang, but he did not say who would sign them.

She found out on Feb. 4, 2000, one hour before the signing, when she was already inside the presidential residence, that it was the President. As an aside, Palace sources told me that, while Ocampo was waiting in the receiving room, an aide whispered to the President that he had a beautiful visitor.

The fateful order

"Maganda, sir"—and that, once told, the President ordered that she be let in—*"Papasukin mo* (Let her in)."

Replying to the questions of the prosecutor Bautista, she said she brought three copies of the investment management agreement. She was asked who signed the name Jose Velarde on each of the three copies. She said: "The President, Joseph Ejercito Estrada." Her statement exploded a bomb with wide political repercussions. That was the first time Estrada was directly identified as Jose Velarde.

"I was one foot away (from Estrada) because I was seated beside him on the left side," said Ocampo, who also named the other witnesses—Fernando Chua, Manuel Curato, head of the bank's legal department, and Aprodicio Laquian, the presidential chief of staff who would be dismissed by the President the following March.

She said Estrada also signed Jose Velarde on two signature cards. She was asked why she did not sign the box with the statement "Authenticated/Approved By." She said: "When he signed 'Jose Velarde,' I just couldn't believe it. He did not sign his real name, so I decided not to authenticate the signature."

'Why don't we take power ourselves?'

From page A1

telling Reyes, "The presidency should not have been given to Gloria."

Defensor, brother of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who sided with Estrada at the impeachment trial, spoke on behalf of his group. Defensor proposed a snap election. It would be best to call for a snap election, he said, "so we will all know who really has the support of the people."

Wong echoed Defensor. "In the first place, what we did was unconstitutional," he said, referring to the defection. "Why don't we take power ourselves?"

These remarks provoked a heated debate between Corpus and the generals. Flaring up, Corpus said, "What you want is a junta and declare snap election. What you are proposing is unconstitutional. We will be at the wrong end of People Power. We will turn from heroes to heel." Reyes cut the exchange short, saying, "We stay constitutional." The meeting ended at 1:30 a.m., Saturday. But the issue did not end there.

Proposal repeated

At around 9 a.m. the next day, General Defensor, again with Admiral Wong, returned and repeated the proposal.

"I thought we had talked about that last night," Reyes said. Dismissing his visitors, he said, "It's up to you."

At that time, the crisis was entering another phase—negotiations over the resignation of Estrada.

Before the generals arrived, retired Gen. Renato de Villa, former Armed Forces chief of staff and member of Macapagal-Arroyo's panel of negotiators, had come to brief Reyes on the negotiations with Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, head of Estrada's panel.

De Villa reported that the negotiations had broken down because of Angara's "intransigence." From the Linden Suites headquarters of the Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo, Joey Rufino, a leader of her Lakas-NUCD party, announced that the chief justice would swear her in as president at about noon. When the generals arrived, it was clear that the events had outstripped the junta or snap election proposals. The proposals had become irrelevant.

Macapagal-Arroyo got wind of these attempts. Shortly before she took her oath of office, she told Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa, a former Marine commander, that she was uncomfortable with Defensor. "I have problems with General Defensor, because up to now he's still proposing snap elections," she said.

General headcount

Reyes made the decision to withdraw at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, after a meeting with his staff. He informed the Vice President of the decision at a safe house in Corinthian Gardens, owned by Eddie Jose, a friend of retired Gen. Leo Alvez's, at 11:45 a.m. Reyes called the board of generals—composed of the three major services commanders, the vice chief of staff and the deputy chief of staff—to the safe house to inform them of his decision.

The meeting was actually a headcount.

Since the explosion of mass demonstrations in the wake of the breakdown of the impeachment trial, Reyes had been closely monitoring them as well as the moves by sympathetic retired generals and insiders in the Armed Forces. He and his staff had also been watching the reactions of the officer corps in the field to the corruption scandals that had rocked the government.

After assessing the developments with his staff, Reyes decided that there remained only one constitutional option: "to withdraw support as an integral military organization." This means the military had to move as a monolith, bonded by the concept of acting as a chain of command. After securing the support of everyone inside the staff room, Reyes said ("In jest," according to him): "Gentlemen, I'm sure you know that we've just committed mutiny." His staff said, "Yes, sir." The time was 10:30 a.m., Friday.

After battle orders for the execution of the decision were issued, Reyes and his staff drove to the safe house. Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived there at 11:45 a.m. In their meeting, Reyes told her, "Ma'am, we are going to announce our withdrawal of support from the President and give it to you." The Vice President said, "General, you are doing a great service to the people and the nation."

Reyes asks for 2 things

"I'm not asking anything for myself," he said. "We are only asking two things, Ma'am—good governance and to allow the President to exit with dignity." To which she replied: "That's really my program, that's really what I want to pursue—good governance."

Their meeting lasted up to 12:20 p.m. Reyes then rang President Estrada to inform him of his decision. They talked for 45 minutes. Reyes has declined to reveal what they talked about.

In the meantime, the members of the board of generals, who had been summoned by Reyes, arrived. They went to the dining room, while the Vice President stayed in another room. Reyes told the generals of his decision, saying it was "based on a careful assessment of developments." He said, "It would be ideal for the AFP to announce the withdrawal of support with one voice." In his account of the withdrawal published in the Inquirer on March 21-24, 2001, Reyes said that "after some discussion, the generals decided to support my decision." However, getting the senior generals behind his decision had not been as smooth as it was made out to be, nor as automatic as might be in the case of soldiers obeying parade ground commands.

The inside story, as told by some witnesses, is that Reyes announced his decision and asked them if they were with him. He started with General (Diomedio) Villanueva, the Army commander, who headed the most powerful command in the Armed Forces. Reyes himself had been Army commander.

A source said Reyes started with Villanueva because he knew he had Villanueva's support, having spoken with him before—*"kasi alam niya na . . . Nakapag-usap na sila."* Sure enough, Villanueva openly supported Reyes's decision.

Next, Reyes turned to Admiral Wong to ask if he was with him: *"Ikaw, kasama ka ba?"* (Are you with us?) The admiral hesitated, but later said, "yes." A senior officer in the Navy had another version. According to him, Reyes, after noting Wong's hesitation, told the Navy chief, "That is my decision."

Apparently robbed of the initiative, according to witnesses, the other generals, when asked themselves, just went along. *"Tuloy, tuloy na. Naunahan na sila ni Angie,"* the witnesses said. (Angie had preempted them.)

Support from the field

Before the headcount, Reyes had seen to it that he had the support of the units in the field under the command of the service chiefs, inside sources said. If they had not fallen in line, said the sources, "they would have been generals without an army. We already talked to their men . . . not to make a move." In reality, anyone who had broken ranks would have been isolated from the groundswell of support for withdrawal from the troops in the regional and provincial commands.

While Reyes was meeting with his generals, rumors of withdrawal had spread like wild fire among military units across the country. Reyes was constantly interrupted by cell phone calls from unit commanders expressing their own support and waiting for instructions. Some commanders asked what to do with the orders for them to report to Malacañang. Reyes asserted his authority and said: "Don't move, stay where you are."

In his published account, Reyes says: "The members of the battle staff at the AFP joint operations center relayed my order to all field commanders to keep their forces inside their respective camps and to all intelligence units to monitor any unauthorized troop movements. After they were advised to await any further instructions from me, I ordered them to shut off their cellular phones to avoid further calls from Malacañang Palace and to communicate through the AFP radio network instead."

After securing the support of the board of generals, Reyes invited the Vice President to join them at the dining room. There he introduced her to the generals as their new commander-in-chief. The Vice President left the safe house for the Edsa shrine at around 3:50 p.m., followed by the generals.

After Reyes had rung Estrada at around 12:20 p.m. to inform him of his decision, the President called Executive Secretary Angara into his small office and told him that Reyes had defected and things had become really serious: *"Ed, seryoso na ito. Kumalas na si Angelo."* (This is serious. Angelo has defected.)In the room were (Philippine National Police chief) Director General (Panfilo) Lacson and General Calimlim.

Kidnapped US journalist is dead

From page A1

links between alleged shoe bomber Richard Reid and the al-Qaida network of suspected Sept. 11 mastermind Osama bin Laden.

Murder on tape

The group claiming to hold Pearl, calling itself The National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty, accused him of being a spy—first for the CIA, then for Israeli intelligence. It said it was protesting against US treatment of Taliban and al-Qaida prisoners.

Local authorities in Pakistan said a videotape received by Pakistani and US officials showed scenes of Pearl's murder.

"The recorded videotape contained scenes showing Daniel Pearl in captivity and scenes of his murder by the kidnappers," a statement said.

One US official in Washington called the tape "very gruesome." He provided no details.

The Washington Post, citing a source close to the investigation, reported the tape showed Pearl speaking, as if he were conducting an interview, when suddenly an assailant grabbed him and slit his throat.

Pearl's body has not been found and it is unclear when he was executed.

Lonnie Kelley, US Public Affairs officer at the US consulate in Karachi, told Reuters, "both Pakistan and US investigators have identified the perpetrators behind the crime." Police are already holding some suspects.

"Pearl's murder is outrageous and the United States is determined to bring the perpetrators to justice," Kelley said.

Hunt in Pakistan

In Islamabad, the Pakistani government vowed every member of the kidnap gang would be hunted down.

"General Musharraf has directed the government of Sindh (the province where Pearl was kidnapped) and other national security agencies to apprehend each and every member of the gang of terrorists linked to this gruesome murder," a statement by the president's office said.

Pearl, the Journal's South Asian bureau chief based in Bombay, India, for the past two years, had been working in Karachi for three weeks when he was kidnapped.

Friends said he was smart, sweet, soft-spoken, self-effacing and unlikely to take unreasonable risks. He also was a talented fiddler, guitarist and classical violinist. One of three children, Pearl's father was an academic and his mother a computer consultant.

Pearl's family said in their statement that "up until a few hours ago we were confident that Danny would return safely, for we believed no human being would be capable of harming such a gentle soul."

Outside the temporary newsroom in New York of The Wall Street Journal, which was displaced after the Sept. 11 suicide hijack attacks in the city, Journal reporters said they had been asked by management not to talk about Pearl.

One unidentified reporter said people inside the newsroom were extremely upset. Another called Pearl's death "a despicable act."

'Just a regular guy'

"He was just a regular guy doing his job. He wouldn't hurt a fly. It's just disgusting," the reporter said.

Pearl, a Princeton, New Jersey, native, grew up in the suburbs of Los Angeles and graduated from Stanford University.

He began his career at small newspapers in Massachusetts before becoming a business reporter at the Pulitzer Prize-winning Berkshire Eagle in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in the 1980s. He joined the Journal in 1990, working in Atlanta, Washington, London and Paris before moving to India.

In New York, the Committee to Protect Journalists called Pearl's death "brutal, wanton, and senseless."

On Thursday, Fahad Naseem, one of three men accused of involvement in the kidnapping, said Pearl was abducted because he was a Jew working against Islam, according to his lawyer.

Pakistan police in early February arrested Naseem and two other suspects for sending e-mails to media organizations that showed Pearl in captivity.

Tributes

Tributes flowed in for Pearl on Friday with Bush saying he was deeply saddened by the killing.

Bush told reporters in Beijing, where he is on the final day of a six-day trip to Asia, "All Americans are sad and angry to learn of the murder."

"Those who would threaten Americans, those who would engage in criminal, barbaric acts need to know that these crimes only hurt their cause and only deepen the resolve of the United States of America to rid the world of these agents of terror," he said.

President Bush said: "Laura and I and the American people are deeply saddened to learn about the loss of Daniel Pearl's life. And we're really sad for his wife and his parents and his friends and colleagues who have been clinging to hope for weeks."

"We are especially sad for his unborn child, who will now know his father only through the memory of others," he added.

A statement issued on behalf of Pearl's family said: "Danny's senseless murder lies beyond our comprehension. Danny was a beloved son, a brother, an uncle, a husband and a father to a child who will never know him.

"A musician, a writer, a storyteller and a bridge-builder, he was a walking sunshine of truth, humor, friendship and compassion. We grieve with the many who have known him in his life and we weep for a world that must reckon with his death."

Heartbroken

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan saluted Pearl's courage. "The crime highlights the enormous dangers encountered by journalists, particularly in areas of conflict and violence," Annan said through his spokesperson Fred Eckhard.

"The secretary general . . . reiterates his long-standing commitment to the right of journalists to carry out their vital work without fearing for their security, freedom or life."

Pakistan, which has been in the frontline of the US-led war on terror, said its government and people were deeply grieved by the killing. "We strongly condemn this outrage," said its embassy in Washington. **Reuters**

Double whammy for US

BEIJING—The United States suffered one of its blackest days since the launch of its war on terrorism Friday but President George W. Bush said Washington's resolve to carry on the fight was undimmed.

The grisly execution of abducted journalist Daniel Pearl in Pakistan and the crash of a US Army helicopter in the Philippines bore out Bush's repeated warnings that the campaign launched in the aftermath of Sept. 11 would involve the loss of American lives.

Bush, reacting to news of Pearl's death, said the slaying would only deepen US resolve.

"Those who would threaten Americans, those who would engage in criminal, barbaric acts, need to know that these crimes only hurt their cause and only deepen the resolve of the United States of America to rid the world of these agents of terror," Bush said in Beijing. ***AFP***

Age no . . .

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Viagra.

Older Spaniards and Belgians topped the sex survey with more of them saying they had sex at least once a day than any other nationality.

Koreans hit another high with 90 percent saying sex was very, extremely or moderately important in their lives.

Trailing were Hong Kong, where only 38 percent felt it was a big boon to their lives, and Japan, where just 21 percent said they had sex one to six times per week.

Worldwide, more than 80 percent of men and 60 percent of women aged 40 to 80 said sex was an important part of their lives, when questioned for the Pfizer Global Study of Sexual Attitudes and Behaviors.

"It is refreshing to see that there is no clear end to the need for intimacy in later life, and that men and women around the world remain sexually active into their 70s," said Dr. Edward Laumann, a sociology professor from the University of Chicago who helped with the study.

And frequent sex has an added bonus, the survey of 26,000 people in 28 countries found.

Nearly 70 percent of those who said their physical relationship with their partner was very or extremely pleasurable also reported excellent health.

"We no longer dismiss the impact that sexual health has on a person's overall well-being—it's as important as diet and exercise," said Australian sex therapist Rosie King who was involved in conducting the survey. **Reuters**

All systems go for Balikatan

By Carlito Pablo

IT'S still all systems go for the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 exercise despite the crash of an American MH-47 Chinook helicopter.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said on dzMM that the accident would not affect the conduct of the Balikatan 02-1.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the same thing. "We do not see any disruption in the joint exercise," he said in an interview over ABS-CBN News Channel.

"Despite the helicopter incident, the US is committed to continuing the training of its Philippine counterparts," US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelly said.

In his briefing, Tiglao said the accident highlighted the risks being taken by American military personnel even though their mission was for training and not combat.

"It's not a picnic for them," Tiglao said. "They are risking the lives of their young men."

Lt. Col. David Maxwell, commander of the US Special Forces' 1st Battalion, said the crash would always be tragic, but it did not dampen the spirit of the Balikatan.

"It would always be tragic. It really affected us. But life must go on," Maxwell said.

Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, Balikatan exercise co-director, expressed his "condolence to the US forces on behalf of the entire members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Filipino people."

Tiglao said that based on initial information provided by the US Embassy, the crash was not caused by sabotage.

"So far it looks like a systems failure," he said.

Tiglao noted that a big part of the 660 American military personnel being deployed as part of the Balikatan 02-1 were maintenance personnel.

Aside from Basilan and Zamboanga City, US personnel are also present at the Philippine Air Force Base in Mactan, Cebu.

Tiglao said the Palace was studying whether President Macapagal-Arroyo would visit the two training sites in Zamboanga City during her scheduled trip to the city on Feb. 26. ***With reports from Julie S. Alipala and Rolly A. San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP***

VAL HANDUMON

AS FAR away from home as he can get, US Army Capt. Joseph Mcgraw is assigned at Sitio Cologo, Barangay Camalig, Tipo-Tipo, Basilan. Southcom chief Roy Cimatu checks out his new accommodations.

CHINOOK DOWN

From page A1

able after their families were notified.

Teramae, teary eyed and speaking in a low tone, said the cause of the tragedy was still being investigated, but said the immediate concern of the American military was to condole with the families of the victims.

"You can understand naturally that our hearts are filled with sorrow. Right now what we are doing is focusing all our attention on the family members where our energy and our prayers are at this time," she said.

The ill-fated Chinook helicopter, with two crew and eight passengers onboard, was flying in tandem with another Chinook when the accident occurred.

A report released by the Combined Information Bureau for the Balikatan said the helicopter was manned by two pilots and was ferrying eight US Army paratroopers back to the Philippine air force base in Mactan.

Lights off

The Americans have been using extremely tight security, with transport planes landing at night with all of their lights off.

The two helicopters used a system in which one landed—never turning off its engines—while the other hovered above as a defensive measure.

Teramae said the crew of the other Chinook confirmed the mid-air explosion. She said visibility was poor and waves were strong as the two Chinooks were passing the channel between Apo Island in Negros Oriental and Dipolog City in Zamboanga del Norte.

A Philippine military official said he had suspected that something was wrong with one of the Chinooks.

"I noticed that there was something wrong in the sound of the helicopter last night. It appeared that its engine was quite louder compared to the previous days when it landed here," said Col. Alexander Aleo, chief of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade.

A Philippine Air Force official doused suspicions that enemy fire downed the Chinook.

Crash saddens Gloria

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo was saddened by the crash of a US military helicopter that killed at least three American soldiers.

"I'm very saddened. I'm still hoping for survivors," she said in a chance interview at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday afternoon.

"This shows that the Americans also face some risks. And they are aware of the dangers such as this. And yet we still keep up our campaign against terrorism," she said.

Addressing the Philippine Councilors League later, the President again thanked the US government for helping build up the military's capability to fight the Abu Sayyaf.

"As we have realized from the helicopter crash . . . this is not a picnic for the US soldiers. They also put their lives on the line. And they came here knowing the danger as well," she said.

"Let us thank the American soldiers, as we thank our Filipino soldiers. In Basilan the spirit of friendship and cooperation between our countries is very much alive," she added.

Maj. Arturo Orticio Jr., Air Force spokesperson, said that the US Army MH-47 Chinook crashed after experiencing mechanical trouble.

"We can dispel that notion that it was fired upon. That couldn't have happened since it was flying over the sea," he said in a phone interview.

Distress call

Police in Dapitan City in Zamboanga del Norte said the pilots of the ill-fated Chinook managed to send a distress call before plunging into the sea.

Police said the crew of MV Alexander and MV Princess, both passenger ships, responded to the distress call and proceeded to the crash site but only found debris and an empty life raft.

The passenger ships relayed the call to the Coast Guard at past 6 a.m.

But Manuel Tumbar, head of the control tower of the Air Transportation Office in Mactan, said there was no distress call from the Chinook helicopter.

Tumbar said they only learned about the crash when an American pilot of a C-130 aircraft informed the ATO. The call came at 2:45 a.m.

Tumbar said the C-130 happened to pass by the vicinity of Apo Island when it saw another Chinook helicopter scouring the crash site. The ATO log showed that the other Chinook landed at the Mactan Air Base at 8:23 a.m.

A rescue helicopter from Zamboanga, which flew over the site, reported seeing an oil slick about 10 nautical miles off the town of Siaton.

Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz, who flew over the site Friday afternoon, said he saw some floating debris, but he could not say whether they were parts of the ill-fated helicopter.

Brig. Gen. Marciano Ilagan, Tactical Operations commander of the Benito Ebuen Air Base in Mactan, has set up a rescue center in Dumaguete City.

"We are prepared to stay here for as long as it takes," Ilagan said.

The US Armed Forces also sent a team of soldiers to Negros Oriental, led by Lt. William Jewett. Navy personnel of the Special Warfare Group, led by a certain Captain Abayon, are also at the site.

The AFP Central Command based in Cebu City sent three vessels from the Naval Forces Central, one vessel from the Cebu Coast Guard and two Huey helicopters to the crash site.

The US soldiers went to the crash site on board the MH-47 Chinook helicopter, the same aircraft that was flying alongside the chopper when it crashed, and a P-3 Orion aircraft.

The P-3 Orion, however, developed mechanical trouble at noon and was forced to go on an emergency landing at the Benito Ebuen Air Base at 12:47 p.m.

A US Air Force C-130 plane is also being used as a command center of the US and Philippine Navy at the Dumaguete City Airport.

Air-to-air refueling

A source involved in the rescue operations said the helicopter had been practicing air-to-air refueling for a few hours before it crashed.

The fisherman, who saw the explosion, said the "thing" fell halfway between Apo Island and Solinog Island, about two hours away from where they were fishing. "It was so clear to us even if we were far," Zamora said.

He said that while they could not hear a sound, the explosion was so big that he thought the fire came from a burning sugarcane field on Solinog Island.

He said he was surprised by what he saw because as far as he knew "Solinog Island has no sugarcane fields."

The fire was gone by the time rescue helicopters appeared on the horizon. By then, the fishermen were starting to put their story piece by piece.

Joel Lasola, 48, skipper of a fishing boat Thea Rae, said he monitored reports of low-flying aircraft shortly before midnight of Thursday.

"We received a call from another fishing boat warning us that there were airplanes flying so low that they almost hit the tip of the boat's radio antennas," he said.

Lasola said there was a light rain and strong north winds that evening.

An information posted on the website of the US Pacific Command (www.pacom.mil) indicated that the MH-47 Chinook is the US Army's only medium-lift helicopter.

The twin-engine, tandem rotor cargo helicopter was designed in the 1950s and has been in service since 1962.

The one that crashed, an MH-47E, is considered a heavy assault helicopter, which was built using the CH-47 airframe.

It was specifically designed and built for special operations and aviation missions. *(See aircraft description on Page A1.)* ***With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan, Carla P. Gomez and Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau; Lullie A. Micabalo, Julie S. Alipala and Rolly A. San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and TJ Burgonio in Manila***

Crash raises . . .

From page A1

pino soldiers onboard the helicopter.

"Is it allowed for them (US) to fly on their own in our airspace? Shouldn't they have Filipino soldiers on that flight?" Maza said in a phone interview.

Fellow Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo raised a similar point.

He wanted to know the mission of the Chinook helicopter flying in tandem with another helicopter before the crash.

"Are these helicopters normally used to fly along these areas? Were they used for purposes outside the Balikatan?" Ocampo said.

Ocampo said he was concerned about this following reports that the United States had been taking unilateral flights in violation of the Balikatan exercises and RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

But Department of Foreign Affairs officials said the US helicopter was on an "administrative" flight.

"The helicopter that crashed was shuttling troops and did not come from the exercises," said Jaime Yambao, executive director of the VFA Commission.

Yambao said that the helicopter was on its way back to Mactan where it was based.

Maza plans to file next week a resolution seeking an inquiry into the cause of the crash.

Maza said the House inquiry was needed because the crash like the release of a video showing alleged atrocities by the Abu Sayyaf might be used by the government to justify US presence in the country.

She asked why the United States was using inferior equipment in the training exercises.

The chair of the House committee on foreign affairs urged the defense department to review the safety records of US military equipment being used in the Balikatan joint military exercises following the Chinook accident.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr. said there was a need to ensure that the transport planes were "life-worthy."

"If their planes are not in tip-top shape, what kind of training is that?" Lozada said on the phone from Hong Kong where his committee was conducting consultations about the absentee-voting bill.

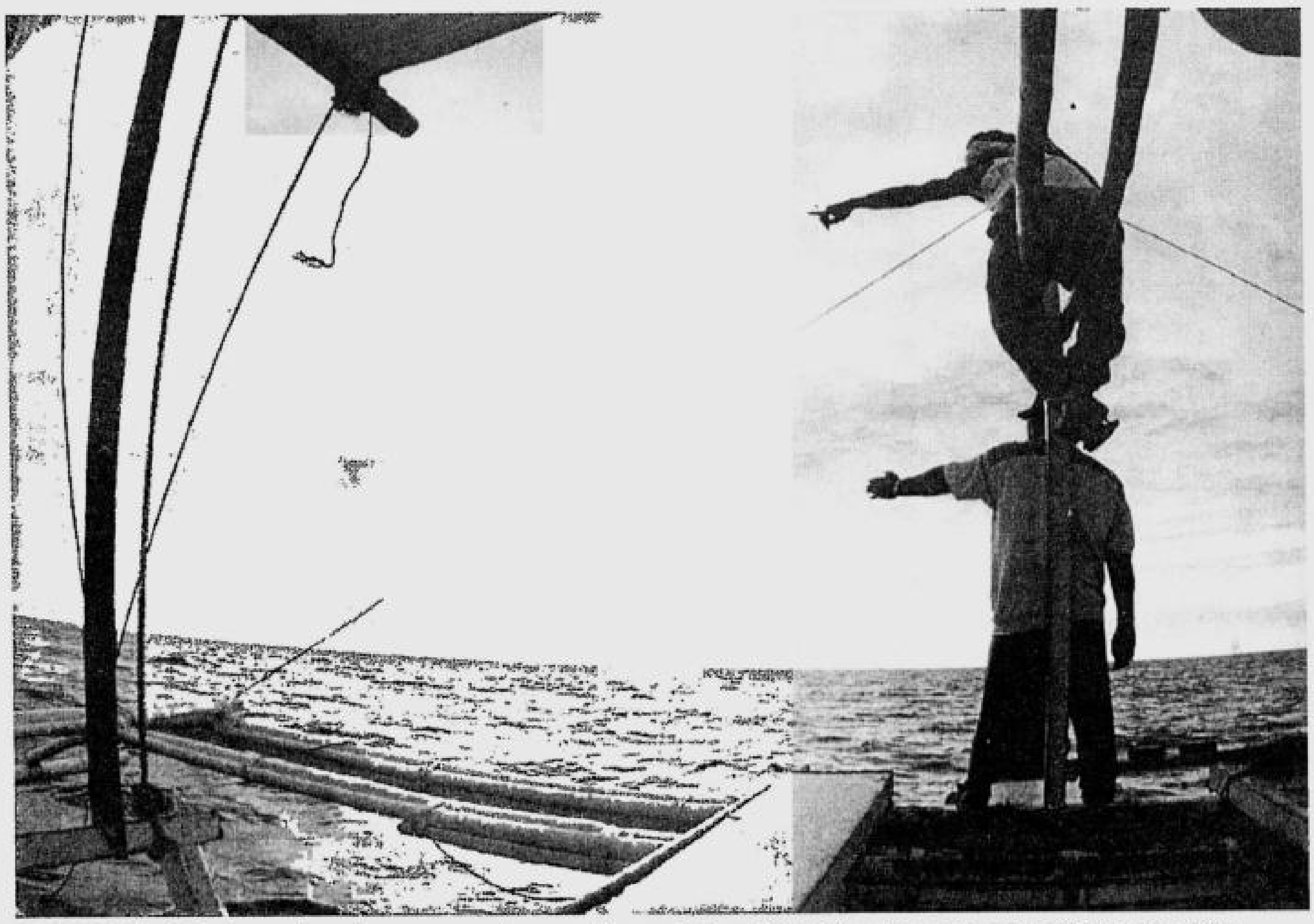
Lozada said the United States was expected to bring in modern and safe equipment and planes and not the Vietnam War-vintage Chinooks.

Lozada said the accident showed that the Americans were as yet unfamiliar with the Philippine weather and terrain.

On Malacañang's release of the controversial video footage of Abu Sayyaf's alleged atrocities, Maza expressed fears that this could have been done to condition the public's acceptance of the US military presence here.

She said that this was done by the United States in Afghanistan when video footage of alleged atrocities committed by the then Taliban regime was released prior to the deployment of US forces in that country.

Search and rescue cloaked in secrecy


FISHERMEN help in the search and rescue operations near the crash site which is 20 nautical miles south of Dumaguete City.

TONEE DESPOJO/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

From page A1

"It's their aircraft. We are dependent on the information they give," he said.

Earlier reports said the bodies were brought to the Mactan Benito Ebuen Air Base, which is the logistic and maintenance base of the Balikatan exercises. But base officials refused to confirm if the bodies were indeed brought to the air base.

The Camp Lapulapu-based Armed Forces Central Command (Centcom), which was coordinating the search and rescue operations, did not know where the bodies were.

Centcom spokesperson Lt. Col. Michael Manquiquis said another Chinook MH-47E, which had accompanied the ill-fated Chinook in the flight from Zamboanga to Cebu, picked up the fatalities at the crash site at 6:45 a.m.

"But we do not know where the bodies were brought," he said.

Manquiquis had been calling the command center at the Dumaguete City airport in Negros to determine where the bodies were taken. But as of 5:35 p.m., nobody could say where the bodies were.

Agence France Presse, quoting an unidentified top military official, said the fatalities and the three American servicemen who were rescued were taken to Dumaguete City.

Canaya told the INQUIRER the Combined Information Bureau based in Zamboanga had been tasked to release press statements.

Manquiquis had his hands full with calls not only from Cebu-based journalists but even those from Negros Occidental and from the wire services because they could not get information from Canaya or any base official.

Local journalists went to the Mactan air base but came up empty-handed. Some were lucky enough to get as far as the Tactical Operations Command office inside the base. Others were stopped at the gates.

Manquiquis said they had established a coordinating center at the Dumaguete City airport, manned by Lt. Col. Rolando Picar.

Picar relayed information to Manquiquis, said Lt. Col. Marlo Salazar.

"We have no direct link with the Americans. We are talking with our men in the area," Salazar said.

"This is our area of concern, that is why we are very interested," he said.

The Centcom had deployed three Navy ships to undertake search and rescue operations. On board one of the ships were seven members of the Philippine Navy Seals. Ten US Navy Seals were on board another.

A Coast Guard search and rescue vessel and one US Chinook helicopter were also at the crash site.

Military sources told the INQUIRER that an information system had been put in place for the Balikatan exercises.

Usually, the sources said, only the designated spokesperson or media bureau was authorized to release a statement especially in emergency cases like yesterday's helicopter crash. ***With a report from AFP***

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Waves get Clay, Adducul

COMBINE Chris Clay with Romel Adducul and what have you got? A powerful Pangasinan team in the Metropolitan Basketball Association. The Waves suddenly became a strong title contender this season, following the acquisition of the 6-foot-4 Clay, runaway statistical points leader in last year's MBA while playing for the Fedex Laguna Lakers.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA—Syracuse vs Seton Hall at 6 a.m. and Duke vs Wake Forest at 5 p.m. on ESPN
NBA Inside Stuff at 8 a.m. (r–6 p.m.) on Star Sports
NBA—LA Lakers vs Charlotte Hornets at 8:30 a.m. (r 9–6:30 p.m.) on Star Sports, LA Lakers vs Cleveland Cavaliers at 2:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

CAMP EVANGELISTA SHINES

Negros leads PAL Friendship division

By Al S. Mendoza

BACOLOD CITY—Former Negros Occidental Gov. Daniel Lacson helped power Negros GCC to the lead yesterday in the PAL Interclub Seniors Friendship Division here.

Playing at their home course (Negros GCC), Emilio Jison Jr. topscored for Negros with 46 but Lacson's 44 was crucial for the host in the 16th staging of the event that gives 4 points to a birdie, 3 to a par, 2 to a bogey and 1 to a double bogey.

But Camp Evangelista surprised the field in the Sportswriters Division by scoring 206 to take a 1-point lead over powerhouse Canlubang.

Raul Noble fired 45 for Camp Evangelista, Antonio Fortich 44, Mabini Kwan 40 and Ponce de Leon 39 as the parbusters from Cagayan de Oro City outdid themselves.

Canlubang was second with 205 through the 43s of Iluminado Advincula, Yoshihiko Akasaka, 42 of Akiyoshi, 41 of Mateo Trinos Jr. and 36 by Arsenio Yulo.

Zamboanga was third (199), Bacolod fourth (189) and Team L.A. fifth (186). Alta Vista was 6th (184).

Jison and Lacson were backed at Negros by the 40 of Francisco Infante and the 39s of Armando Alano and Emilio Infante for 208 points in the 8-to-play, 5-to-count format. The 38 of Francis Jalandoni, 35 of Ramon Locsin and the 34 of Jo Cajili did not count.

Fil-Am SFO was a surprise second to Negros with 203 points, followed by Iloilo 198, Rancho Palos Verdes 192, Paoay and Maharlika 183 each, Iligan 172, Hawaii Fil-Am 166 and Bay Area 160.

The final round for the Sportswriters Division will be played today at the Negros GCC while Friendship bets take a rest and resume action tomorrow at Binitin.

Also playing today are the 10 teams entered in the Championship Divison and the 12 teams in the Founders Division—both at Binitin.

Defending champion Luisita is gunning for its 10th crown in 16 editions of the nation's seniors team championship.

They play the final 18 holes tomorrow at the Negros GCC in the series backed by Fortune Tobacco, Boeing, RMN/E! Television, Airbus Industrie, NBC/MTV, ABS-CBN International, Premier Wines & Spirits, Smart and Pilipinas Shell. Corporate sponsors include, among others, PLDT, Tanduay, Asia Brewery, Pagcor and Century Park Hotel.

Williams powers Coke past SMB

GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
4 p.m.—FedEx vs Shell
6 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Ginebra

By June Navarro

Teams	W	L
Red Bull	2	0
Purefoods	2	0
Alaska	2	0
Coke	2	1
Hapee-RP	1	0
Shell	1	1
Selecta-RP	1	1
Talk N Text	0	1
Sta. Lucia	0	1
Ginebra	0	2
FedEx	0	2
San Miguel	0	2

ANTIPOLO CITY—Fred Williams rebounded from a disappointing performance to send Coca-Cola streaking past San Miguel Beer, 85-79, last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Ynares Center here.

Williams, exasperated by the way he played during Coke's 90-82 setback against Shell last week, came out of his shell with 31 points, firing 19 of them in the first half as the Tigers went on to break the hearts of the Beermen.

Roselle Ellis backed Williams up as he finished with 23 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to propel the Tigers to their second win in as many outings.

The Beermen, who got sparkling moments from Boybits Victoria and Lamont Strothers, absorbed their second defeat following a 64-59 debacle at the hands of Selecta-RP Team recently.

Victoria rose to the occasion as he drained six triples to finish with 24 points. Strothers also came up with 24 points.

The Beermen's bane, however, was the shameful acts of import Keith Hill, who struggled throughout and could only score a single point for almost 30 minutes of action.

As Hill huffed and puffed, the Tigers began their assault by dropping a 20-4 bomb at the start of the second period.

When the smoke of Coke's blinding attack cleared, the Tigers were already way on top, 42-33, with Williams and Ellis doing most of the damage.

American coach Bill Bayno's Talk N Text routed Hapee-RP Team, 95-62, in the second game to tie its victim at 1-1.

Meanwhile, Federal Express parades a new import when it battles Shell today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

European league veteran Tim Moore, a 6-foot-7 250-pound bruiser, has replaced Rodrick Rhodes to team up with Jermaine Walker as the Express eye their first victory after two setbacks.

The scores:

COCA-COLA 85—Williams 31, Ellis 23, Ballesteros 10, Antonio 10, Abuda 6, Morano 3, Avenido 2, Manalo 0, Bolado 0.

SAN MIGUEL 79—Victoria 24, Strothers 24, Belasco 10, Peña 10, Duat 5, Lago 3, Mente 2, Hill 1.

Quarters: 19-21; 42-33; 64-55, 85-79

NBA RESULTS

Nets 93, Wizards 82; Lakers 104, Cavaliers 97; Magic 119, Clippers 102; Suns 78, Grizzlies 72; Rockets 89, Timberwolves 83; Mavericks 98, Celtics 92; Spurs 115, Kings 92; Trail Blazers 94, Hawks 79.

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GOLF TOURNAMENT

BONG Cruz (right), VP for marketing of the Philippine Airlines, hits the ceremonial tee off at the start of the Seniors event of the 55th PAL Interclub Golf Tournament at the Bacolod Golf and Country Club in Binitin, Murcia, Negros Occidental. PAL PHOTO BY EUGENE LABADAN

Cebu cagefest blasts off today

GAMES TODAY: (USC Gym)
3:00 p.m.—M. Lhuillier vs Spring Cooking Oil
4:30 p.m.—Pampanga vs ML Kwarta Padala
5:30 p.m.—Osaka Iridology vs RP Youth Team

CEBU CITY—It will be experience versus youth when Osaka Iridology tests the mettle of the RP Young Men's Team at the start of the Cebu Basketball League President's Cup today at the University of San Carlos Gym.

Osaka, in a bid to bolster its chances in this weeklong, import-laced tournament, has acquired the services of several marquee players from national commercial leagues.

Former Shell power-forward Joel Dualan will see action for Osaka, together with MBA players Cid White, Maui Huelar, Michael Almonte, Johnedel Cardel and Bong Marata.

Beefing up the Osaka backcourt is Celino Cruz, one of the vital cogs in the Welcoat Paintmasters squad in the Philippine Basketball League.

The RP team is a selection of collegiate standouts, the bulk of which are aspirants for slots in the team that will see action in the Thailand qualifying tourney for the World Youth Basketball Cup in London.

RP Team coach Johnny Tam admitted that his team is the underdog in the tourney.

CBL president Jonathan Guardo said the tourney will be a showcase of cage talents of the south mixing up with the vaunted Manila brand of basketball.

Manila-based Spring Cooking Oil, which will take on multi-titled M. Lhuillier in the 3 p.m. opener, will parade PBA seven-time best import Bobby Parks.

Another crowd-drawers are the Pampanga Stars who will meet ML Kuarta Padala at 4:30 p.m.

The Pampanga squad will be led by one-time PBA MVP Ato Agustin as a playing coach.

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Tuason eyes top karter plum

YOUNG expert class driver Mike Tuason makes a big comeback as he eyes this year's Karter of the Year award in the 2002 Shell Super Karting Series today at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Tuason, backed by Kart Plaza, Magic 89.9 and Haase Chasis, took a leave from racing last year to concentrate on his studies.

His title-retention bid in the Formula Class A, however, is expected to be challenged by Pepon Marave.

"I missed racing a lot after a year of hiatus and I'm really eager to get back on track," said the 19-year-old Tuason, who will likewise be pressed by Manny Sy, Jinky Cabalinan and Cebuano karter Jess Garcia.

Then 16, Tuason became the first Filipino to win the Asian Karting Championship, which also paved the way for his entry as the youngest Formula driver in the country.

Through Morisawa racing, he was also able to compete in the highly competitive 1997 CIK/FIA World Cup karting championship at the Suzuka Circuit in Japan.

Pampanga 'Sagupaan' tilt March 15

A GRAND showdown of big-time cockers from Central Luzon, Manila, Cebu and Bacolod happens on March 15 as Pampanga Coliseum (San Fernando City) presents the much-awaited Sagupaan Big-time 5-Cock Invitational Derby.

Sabong idol Patrick Antonio, derby host, said the one-day event will start at exactly 4 p.m. since more than 90 fights will be fielded. Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer and Sagupaan B-50 Forten.

At stake is a guaranteed prize of P.7 million. The "fastest kill" award will also be given.

Antonio's derby promotion last year (Sagupaan Invitational 5-Stag Derby) turned out to be Pampanga Coliseum's biggest crowd-drawer to date, as more than 7,000 cockfight aficionados witnessed the event. Bobby Cabillion of Sta. Cruz, Laguna emerged as solo champion in that stagfest, while Jimmy Maruquit of Angeles City won the Fastest Kill award (seven seconds).

Cavite gov exhorts athletes

MALIKSI

DASMARIÑAS, Cavite-Gov. Ayong A. Maliksi on Wednesday exhorted some 2,000 athletes competing in the Cavite Patriots Palaro 2002 to be "true sportsmen while striving for excellence in sports."

A physical fitness buff, Maliksi, who does kilometers of brisk-walking as early as 5 a.m. daily in his Imus farm, challenged the competitors at the opening of the provincial games at the Dasmariñas National High School-Dasmariñas Bagumbayan Elementary School athletic grounds to show magnanimity in victory and grace in defeat.

"Whether you win a medal or not, each one of you becomes an outright winner when you exert your best effort and when you extend yourself to your limit," he said.

Taking part in the three-day, 17-event sportsfest are select athletes from Eastern Cavite Sports Unit, Western Cavite Sports Unit, Southern Cavite Sports Unit and Northern Cavite Sports Unit, according to overall athletic manager and Division Physical Education and School Sports (PESS) Supervisor Dr. Rodolfo "Tom" Cruz.

Region IV PESS chief Araw B. Tamondong and Schools Division Supt. Dr. Leonora B. Ignacio also graced the opening of the event which was organized by Dr. Cruz in preparation for the upcoming Southern Tagalog Regional Athletic Association meet slated March 10-16 in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Also in attendance were Assistant Schools Division Superintendents Dr. Nelda G. Dator and Aravela Radios and Marcelina Chavez, principal IV of host Dasmariñas National High School.

SPORTSWATCH

Garcia ousts rival

CARLSBAD, California—Sergio Garcia proved to be the best 22-year-old in the Match Play Championship. And with another string of surprises Thursday, the Spaniard suddenly became the man to beat. A battle between two of the youngest stars in golf turned into a brawl down the stretch, with Garcia making one fewer mistake for a 1-up victory over Charles Howell III. One day after top seeds Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and David Duval made surprisingly early exits, they were joined by nearly all of the other top 10 seeds. Fifth-seeded Ernie Els squandered a 3-up lead at the turn to Tom Lehman, and lost on the 19th hole when he missed a 4-foot (1.2-meter) par putt. U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen was eliminated, too, but not without a fight. *AP*

Venus whips Russian

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates —Venus Williams, set to become World No. 1 next week, survived a spirited Anastasia Myskina of Russia on Thursday to scrape into the semifinals of the $585,000 Dubai Duty Free Women's Open. Williams, who has won three tournaments this year and is assured of overcoming Jennifer Capriati next week for the top ranking on the WTA tour, won 6-0, 3-6, 6-4. Also, second-seeded Monica Seles of the United States topped Angeles Montolio of Spain 6-0, 6-2; third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France beat Slovene Tina Pisnik 6-1, 6-2; and fourth-seeded Sandrine Testud of France defeated Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand 6-2, 6-0. *AP*

Judging scandals

SALT LAKE CITY—Russia and South Korea were threatening Olympic boycotts Thursday as judging scandals continued to rock the Salt Lake Winter Games. The Russians were outraged when Larissa Lazutina was disqualified from the women's 4x5-kilometer relay because of high levels of hemoglobin found in a pre-race blood test. The Russian relay team, the four-time defending champion, was not allowed to compete. That sparked complaints about the targeting of Russian athletes for doping tests and the improper handling of the race. Russian Olympic Committee president Leonid Tyagachev said Lazutina's blood test reading was high, but did not amount to doping and could be attributed to her menstrual cycle. *AP*

No charge vs Tyson

LAS VEGAS—Mike Tyson will not be charged with sexual assault in two cases in Las Vegas, prosecutors said. "It was simply unclear whether the sexual interaction between each of the two alleged victims and Mr. Tyson was consensual or forced," Clark County prosecutors wrote in a letter sent Thursday to the Las Vegas police. Prosecutors said there was no question sexual relations occurred between Tyson and the two women, but said there was "no possibility whatsoever" to successfully prosecute Tyson. "His position, of course, is it's consensual. Their position is, of course, it's not," Clark County District Attorney Stewart Bell told The Associated Press. "It's just not clear. It could have been either. I don't suppose we'll ever really know the truth." AP

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Air Love 2. Enjoy D View 3. Imus Emperor 4. Witch Craft 5. Hong Kong Treasure
Race 2—1. Marinela 2. Decathlete
Race 3—1. Sea Wolf 2. Golden Dave 3. Beautiful Task 4. Let Me Pass 5. Diva
Race 4—1. Andee's Joy 2. Precious Time 3. Vanicx
Race 5—1. Dandansoy 2. Sensei 3. Sekreta 4. Eden's Quest/Wind Star 5. Easy Rider
Race 6—1. Earth Angel 2. Marginal Note
Race 7—1. Cheese Laffongga 2. Yes Sir 3. Big Treasure 4. Irish Diplomat 5. Jackpot
Race 8—1. Hope 2. Top Dancer 3. Lady Queen
Race 9—1. Mica's Magic 2. Umaatikabo 3. Free Wind 4. Action Mark
Race 10—1. Jackpot Baby 2. Golden Prince
Race 11—1. Picardy 2. Oh Diva 3. Front Page 4. Knows Love 5. Turbo Carera
Race 12—1. Hollywood Park 2. Fountain of Gold 3. Real Dancer
Race 13—1. Above All 2. Sea Eagle 3. Never My Love 4. Alert One 5. Waw 6. Doña Luisa

TIONG LIAN'S BEST
Xavier School team captain Tyrone "TY" Tang (left) holds the trophy which he presented to his school director, Fr. Johnny Go, S.J., after the Stallions crushed UNO High, 91-61, recently to sweep the Tiong Lian basketball crown. The Stallions, powered by Tang, Chris Tiu, Sammy Young, Leonard Lee and JC Yu, swept all their nine assignments.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Ateneo de Manila beat Don Bosco Cebu, 77-73, to win the SBP (Small Basketeers Philippines) and Passerelle crowns in the Milo BEST Center-organized 3rd National Final at the CYO gym in Davao City. Also today in 1993, Rolando Pascua scored a technical knockout over Rey Paciones to capture the Philippine junior bantamweight title at the UM gym in Davao del Norte.

Nat'l Open track-field meet to honor Sering

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TOP ASIAN track and field athletes from among 44 countries are invited to see action in the Milo National Open and Invitational championships which will be held in honor of the late Philippine Olympic Committee president Gov. Jose Sering.

Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok yesterday said the Asian Amateur Athletics Association vowed to send invitation to the region's best athletes to compete on May 1-4 at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

The 4A's gesture was in recognition of Sering's contribution to the formation of the Asian track and field body in which the late leader was the founding president in 1973,

"This will be the biggest ever National Open Invitation because it will serve as pre-tournament for the September Asian Games in Busan," said Go. "It could probably rival the AAAA Championships we hosted back in 1993."

Suresh Kalmadi, 4As president who is also an Indian parliament member, assured Go of the presence of the top AAAA officials who unanimously decided to name the tournament Gov. Jose C. Sering Memorial Cup.

"As the founding father of athletics in Asia, he (Sering) laid a strong foundation for the AAAA. He was the guiding factor and source of inspiration to those who came in contact with him."

Sering will be buried today in Surigao del Norte where the country's sports leaders are expected to attend.

The Philippines is gunning for at least seven medals in the Busan Games and the Gov. Sering Cup will prove as a testing ground for the country's track and field stars led by Southeast Asian Games gold medalists led by Eduardo Buenavista and John Lozada.

De La Salle golf March 4

ALUMNI of De La Salle University class '77 will hold an all-La Salle alumni golf tournament on March 4 at the Sta. Elena Golf Club course in Cabuyao, Laguna. Tee off time is 11 a.m.

The event will serve as a prelude to the annual alumni homecoming on March 9 at the Taft Campus also to be hosted by Class '77.

Tournament fee is pegged at P2,000, though early registrants will only pay P1,800.

For details, call the DLSU Alumni Secretariat at 523-6158, 524-4611 loc. 128 or email at dlsaa@hotmail.dlsu.edu.ph.

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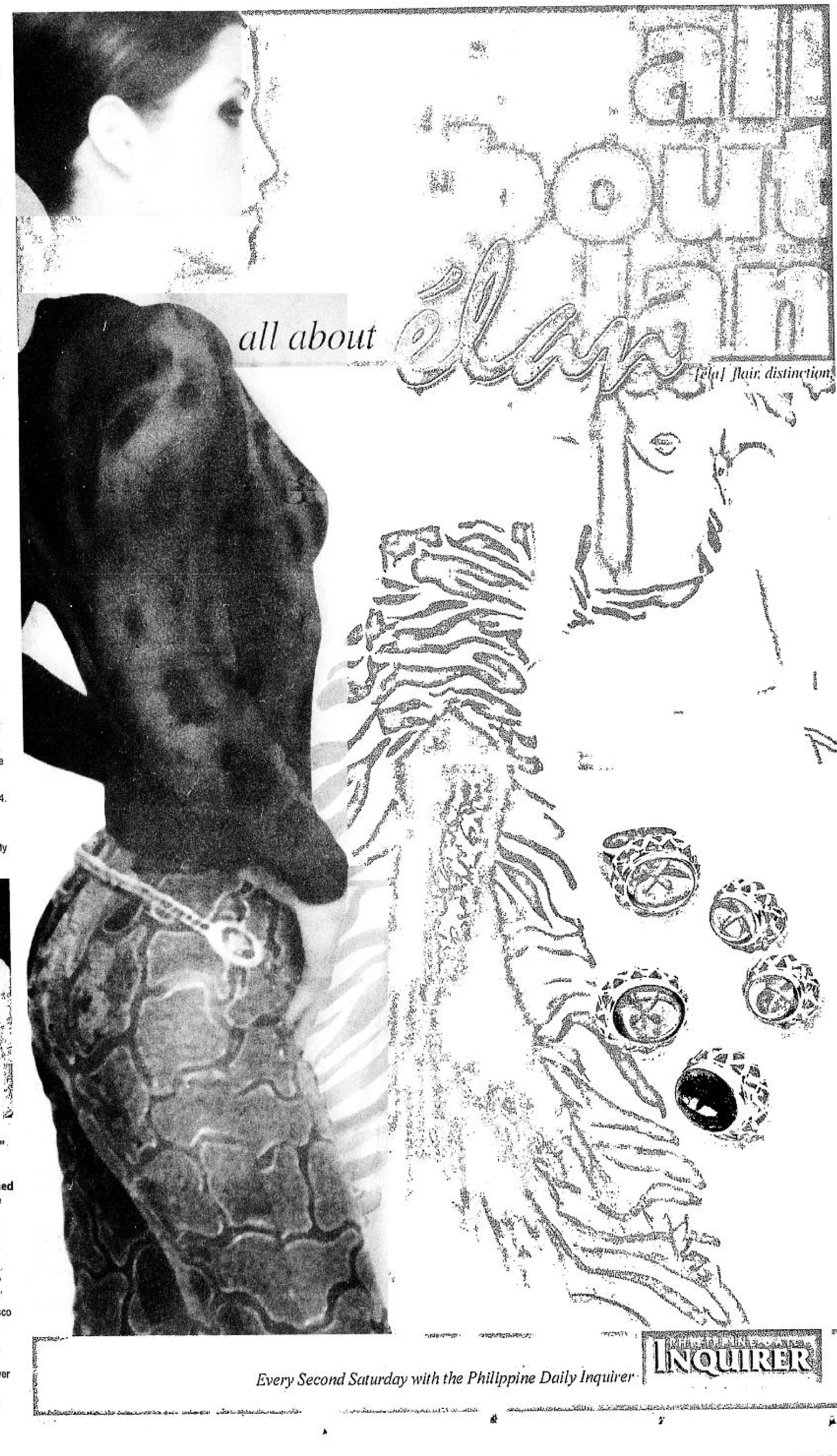
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LOGO BEARLOVE1
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Five for Fighting
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Santana
Keyword: **TONE SMOOTHSAN**

Might Be You*
Stephen Bishop
Keyword: **TONE MYTBU**

Forbidden Fruit*
Paul Van Dyk
Keyword: **TONE 4BIDDEN**

What Can I Do*
The Corrs
Keyword: **TONE WATCANIDO**

Rubber Duckie
From Sesame Street
Keyword: **TONE RUBBERDUCKY**

Head Over Heals*
Go Go's
Keyword: **TONE HEDOVRHIL**

Intimacy*
The Corrs
Keyword: **TONE INTIMACY**

Be With You*
Ricky Martin
Keyword: **TONE BWITHYOU**

Sunny Day (Sesame Street Theme)
From Sesame Street
Keyword: **TONE SUNNYDAY**

Waiting For Tonight*
Jennifer Lopez
Keyword: **TONE WAITING4**

Kiss Me*
Six Pence None The Richer
Keyword: **TONE KISSME**

I Don't Want To Miss A Thing*
Aerosmith
Keyword: **TONE MISATING**

Lady Marmalade*
Christina Aguilera
Keyword: **TONE MARMALADE**

Lost In Space
Lighthouse Family
Keyword: **TONE LOSTSPACE**

It's Raining Men
Geri Halliwell
Keyword: **TONE RAININMEN**

12345
From Sesame Street
Keyword: **TONE 123**

Clint Eastwood*
Gorillaz
Keyword: **TONE CLINTEAST**

Rewind
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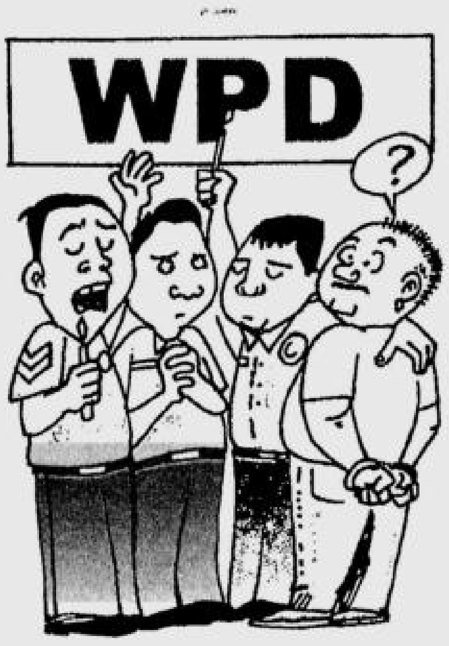

Former Comelec executive charged with Cinco slay

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday finally charged former Commission on Elections (Comelec) executive Angelina Matibag and two others with the killing of her successor Velma Cinco.

Matibag, of BF Resort Village, Las Piñas, was charged with murder and frustrated murder for Cinco's killing and the wounding of Cinco's son Carlo. The charges were filed late yesterday afternoon before the Manila prosecutor's office.

The bureau also charged Matibag's aides Rodolfo Fortich and Bernardo Pangilinan. Both men are from Tondo, Manila.

A witness identified Pangilinan as one of the gunmen who shot Cinco on the morning of Nov. 20, 2001 in Sta. Ana, Manila.

"Many of the witnesses we interviewed, including two would-be hit men, linked Matibag to the case," said an NBI agent, who asked not to be identified.

Cinco was ambushed at the corner of Pedro Gil and Eden streets while she was on her way to work. She was on board her red Kia Pride together with her son Carlo and sister Marian S. Jayme.

Cinco, 62, suffered four gunshot wounds in the head and body. Carlo was hit in the right shoulder. Jayme was unhurt.

While denying that she had anything to do with the Cinco murder, Matibag

FORMER COMELEC/ A22

Policemen pray for compassion

By Philip Tubeza

MANILA policemen, including Metro Manila police chief Director Edgar Aglipay, yesterday lighted candles outside their offices and prayed for the implementation of the National Police Commission's order to stop the transfer of their colleagues to the provinces.

"This is a prayer for enlightenment, understanding, and compassion," said SPO1 Antonio Emmanuel, vice president of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association Inc. "We are praying for enlightenment so that the Napolcom order will finally be followed.

"We are also praying for the return of our colleagues who were arbitrarily transferred to the provinces."

The MFBAI, composed of non-commissioned officers of the Western Police District, is protesting the National Capital Region Police Office's decision to transfer about 400 Manila policemen to the provinces.

"O Lord, touch the hearts of our leaders so (that they'll realize) that the policemen who were transferred should have another chance to serve in the police force in Metro Manila," some 30 policemen prayed in chorus at the WPD headquarters. "Give them godly wisdom so that they'll lead in the success of our mission with a faith similar to that which King David had in you."

The object of the MFBAI's prayer and ire—Aglipay—"joined" the lawmen in asking for "enlightenment and wisdom."

"As you pray today, I join you in spirit so that you and I will be enlightened in our decisions for a better and more dedicated service to God, country, and people," Aglipay said.

He said he spoke to the head of the MFBAI on Monday and told him that once the 503 open slots in the provinces are filled, "(later) movements will just be within Metro Manila—if there is a need to do so for the good of the service."

He explained that the openings came about when 503 policemen in the provinces were transferred to Metro Manila last year.

"I also emphasized that if there is anyone who thinks his transfer was done without reason, then he should feel free to request for his transfer's nullification by presenting evidence to support his claims," Aglipay said. "If your officers at the lower level do not act on your request for reconsideration, you can approach me personally."

Lighted candles sprouted in the main hall of the WPD and in front of all of the 11 WPD police stations about 3 p.m. yesterday.

"Never give up! Pray! It works!" said a statement distributed to all MBFAI members.

Emmanuel said the MBFAI were supposed to meet with Napolcom commissioner Rogelio Pureza to find out what he would do, since the PNP leadership has not issued implementing

POLICEMEN/ A22

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Citizens support showing of video clip

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to allow the showing of a video footage of two captured Army soldiers being beheaded by Abu Sayyaf terrorists in 1995 was a stroke of genius.

Citizens who had misgivings about the participation of US troops in the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf bandits are now convinced that America's help is needed in annihilating the most vicious group that has walked the face of the earth.

"I thought the Abu Sayyafs were just revolutionaries fighting for an independent Muslim nation," student activist Hernando San Pascual said in Filipino. "But after I saw that video on television, I want them and even their families wiped out because they are beasts."

* * *

"The families of these terrorists should be killed along with them because they have infected their families with their bestiality," San Pascual added.

A leftist group, of which San Pascual is a member, opposes the presence of American troops in Basilan, site of the biggest rescue, search and destroy operations in the country.

If a left-leaning student like San Pascual was moved by the video footage, which was shown by two TV networks, how much more the ordinary citizens?

* * *

The argument that the gruesome video footage has assaulted the sensibilities of certain people, especially children, is rubbish.

Movies and television have been showing similar or more gruesome scenes. The attack on the World Trade Center in New York on Sept. 11, 2001 was also a gruesome scene; it showed people jumping from the burning building. That Sept. 11 drama was shown again and again on TV and was witnessed by millions of children.

Perhaps the story of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon that his 10-year-old grandson, Mikey, ran out of the room after watching the gory scene is apocryphal. Yes, the senator has a grandson named Mikey, but whether the boy ran out of the room or watched the video footage at all is doubtful. The good senator was probably exaggerating.

Besides, Biazon has the tendency to shoot his mouth off to gain publicity.

* * *

The gory scene showed the kind of beasts who inflict themselves on innocent civilians in Basilan and Sulu, home provinces of the Abu Sayyaf.

It revealed the "real face of the enemy," in the words of a Malacañang official.

But "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes sees it differently. He says the video footage was "immoral" because it depicted utter violence.

Father Reyes, why don't you just stick to running?

* * *

Let's go back to that lengthy article that Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson wrote on the front page of the Malaya last Sunday, Feb. 17. Lacson said he has always been guided by the honor system of a Philippine Military Academy cadet long after he graduated from the PMA.

When he assumed the post of PNP chief, Lacson said, he had officers return stolen vehicles they had recovered but were using. "Within a period of about two weeks, the officers concerned returned more than 600 vehicles which were immediately examined and processed for return to their rightful owners," the senator said.

Yes, he did order recovered stolen vehicles turned in for processing and return to their owners. But many of the same vehicles ended up being used by members of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF). Lacson was concurrent head of PAOCTF that was described as "a PNP within the PNP." Lacson devoted more time to being chief of PAOCTF than to his job as PNP chief.

To Lacson, there was a code of conduct for "ordinary" PNP members and another for PAOCTF members.

* * *

"I put a stop, the moment I assumed the post as chief, PNP, to the practice of utilizing PNP funds to pay for the PR services of media practitioners, broadcasters and reporters in order to project a favorable image of the PNP and selected officers to the public," Lacson said in another part of his lengthy article.

Former PNP chief and now Land Transportation Commissioner Bobby Lastimoso told me that when he took over as PNP chief, Lacson approached him with several journalists in tow.

The group of journalists, Lastimoso said, belonged to People's Journal. At the head of the group, Lastimoso said, was Raymond Burgos, then publisher of the Journal group of publications.

* * *

During a dinner tendered by Lastimoso for the group, Lacson reportedly broached to the then PNP chief the idea of setting aside P250,000 a month for Burgos et al.

Lastimosa said he referred the proposal to the PNP comptroller. He said he had no idea whether the comptroller set aside the P250,000 monthly retainers for the Journal group.

P—— ina ka, Lacson, ibinintang mo pa sa akin yung P250,000!

Among Lacson's favorite reporters were those of the Journal group because he and Burgos, Journal publisher, were very close, their closeness dating back to the days at the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC) which Burgos covered for the Inquirer.

* * *

Lacson expressed pride over his campaign of trimming down overweight policemen. His target was making all cops have a minimum of 34-inch waistline. Many cops died of overexertion and heart attack as a result of rigid exercise.

But do you know why Lacson is trim even when he's not athletic?

Lacson's large intestines were cut during surgery after a stray bullet hit him in the stomach. His large intestines can't accommodate excess food. So, he can't take in so much food because he'll vomit it.

By the way, Lacson was accidentally shot by his PMA classmate, Jose Lalisan, who was playing with a gun.

Lacson has never forgiven Lalisan for it. When he became PNP chief, he had Lalisan removed as director of PNP Region 4.

5,000 cops for Edsa I anniversary

SOME 5,000 policemen will be deployed to secure public places and vital installations in Metro Manila on Monday, the 16th anniversary of "Edsa I."

The Metro police chief, Director Edgardo Aglipay, bared this on Thursday even as he promised that the celebration on Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (Edsa) would be peaceful since cause-oriented groups would be staging rallies in Manila.

He also admitted that police had received raw intelligence information about a plot to mount terrorist attacks during the four-day celebration but said "we are prepared for it."

Aglipay said 2,000 policemen would be deployed to maintain law and order along Edsa on Monday while another 3,000 would be sent to guard vital facilities, including the mass railway transit system, oil depots and government offices.

"I think we'll have an orderly and peaceful celebration of Edsa 1," Aglipay told a news briefing, noting that cause-oriented groups would be holding rallies in Mendiola near Malacañang and other parts of Manila that day.

Aglipay met with leaders of cause-oriented groups, including Bayan, Sanlakas, Gabriela, Council on Philippine Affairs, the People's Movement Against Poverty, Akbayan and Gomburza, to discuss their plans for Monday.

The anniversary of Edsa I, a popular uprising that led to the ouster of dictator Ferdinand Marcos in February 1986, started yesterday and will end on Monday.

Aglipay also said there were "unconfirmed reports" about plans by some groups to sow terror that day but he added that the police were prepared for this.

He also announced that on Monday, vehicles using Edsa would be re-routed 5-9 a.m. and 3-9 p.m.

"We made arrangements with the police so that they secure all places of celebration," said Pastor "Boy" Saycon, member of the Edsa Commission. "This is a good beginning since there is full disclosure of all our activities."

Arnold Obina of PMAP admitted that his group was organizing some 2,000 youths for the Edsa 1 celebration but said their activities were intended not to sow disorder but to air the agenda of several pro-poor sectors.

TJ Burgonio

Policemen . . .

From page A21

guidelines for Pureza's memo which was issued nearly a month ago.

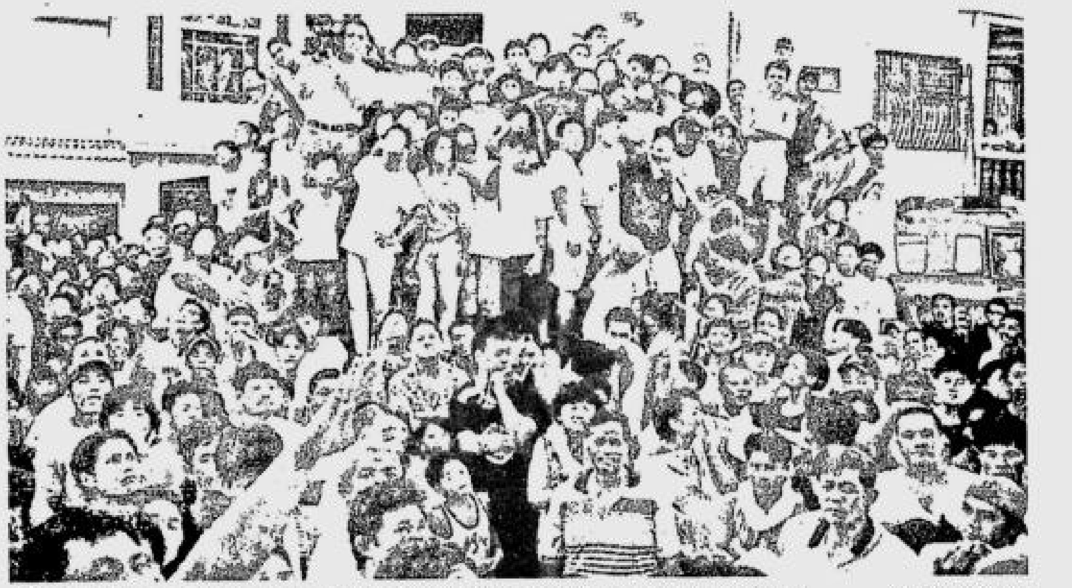
Emmanuel, who himself was transferred to Makati, said his superiors have informed him that he is being investigated for conduct unbecoming of a policeman after he took up the cudgels for his transferred colleagues.

Pureza earlier ordered a stop to the transfers, noting they were arbitrary.

"Moreover, the arbitrary transfer of PNP personnel to places where they are complete strangers is counter-productive, and violates the principle of assigning PNP members to places where they reside or nearest to their residence."

Depressed man frees hostage wife

By Nelson F. Flores



AS IF watching a circus, a big crowd gathers to watch the long hostage drama. DENNIS SABANGAN

THE MAN who took hostage his own wife in Marikina City on Thursday has been turned over to the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City.

Police said Dan John Albito, 33, of H. Bautista Street, Barangay Concepcion Uno, Marikina City, had been discharged recently from the St. Luke's Medical Center where he was found to be suffering from severe depression.

St. Luke's doctors even advised his relatives to take him to the NCMH for treatment, said Supt. Cipriano Quirol, Marikina City police chief.

But before his family could bring him to the NCMH on Wednesday, Albito's depression took a turn for the worst. He poked kitchen knives in the throat and back of his wife Imelda, and held her hostage for more than 24 hours, Quirol said.

The police drama began about 10 a.m. Wednesday when Albito grabbed Imelda, who is two months pregnant, and threatened her with kitchen knives. The incident was only reported to the Marikina police about 5 p.m., records showed.

Supt. Quirol said Albito locked his wife inside the house and threatened to kill her should anyone try to enter the house. He added Albito did not have any demands except to see his brothers and sisters.

Albito in his ramblings claimed that his brothers and sisters were abducted and killed by members of the Philippine National Police, a charge that was promptly denied by his relatives and local authorities.

HOSTAGE and hostage taker cling to each other after the surrender.

Albito finally surrendered at 6 p.m. to his friend Jon-Jon de Guzman, an alleged Quezon City policeman, and a priest, Fr. Allan Lastimosa.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, February 23, 2002
1st Week of Lent

1st Reading: **Dt 26:16-19**
Gospel: **Mt 5:43-48**

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said: Love your neighbor and do not do good to your enemy. But this I tell you: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in Heaven. For he makes his sun rise on both the wicked and the good, and he gives rain to both the just and the unjust.

If you love those who love you, what is special about that? Do not even tax collectors do as much? And if you are friendly only to your friends, what is so exceptional about that? Do not even the pagans do as much? For your part you shall be righteous and perfect in the way your heavenly Father is righteous and perfect."

Commentary

Supposing I am giving financial support to my neighbor's child so that he can complete his studies, and then I catch him stealing from me. Do I terminate his scholarship, or offer him some chance to make amends?

Supposing a co-worker, through dishonesty, gets a wage increase that might have been mine. She cannot balance her books and I know where she's made the mistake. Do I let her stew in her own juice, or do I help her?

Do I give people what I think they deserve, or do I live as a child of our Father in heaven, who gives to the just and unjust alike? The challenge to love like this is genuine 100% Jesus. His own teaching. Original. New. Unnatural. Impossible to human beings unless God lifts us into a God-like way of being human. That's what Jesus came to do. It's called salvation.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE/EVIDENCE)—Conviction based on circumstantial evidence—Appellant contends that the trial court should not have convicted him on the basis of circumstantial evidence. He points out that there was no evidence presented to show directly that he was the one who had robbed and killed the victim. According to him, the prosecution witnesses' oral testimonies alone cannot be relied upon for his conviction. Contrary to appellant's ascription, a conviction may rest purely on circumstantial evidence, provided the following requisites concur: (a) there is more than one circumstance, (b) the facts from the inferences are derived are proven, and (c) the combination of all the circumstances is such as to produce a conviction beyond reasonable doubt. In the present case, the foregoing conditions have been satisfied. Several circumstances were duly presented, sufficiently established and correctly appreciated by the trial court in arriving at the conviction of appellant. Indeed, direct evidence of the commission of the crime is not the only matrix from which a trial court may draw its conclusion and finding of guilt. Even in the absence of such evidence, conviction is proper if the established factual circumstances constitute an unbroken chain and are consistent with each other and with the hypothesis that the accused are guilty, to the exclusion of any other hypothesis that they are not. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, People v. Corre, Jr., G.R. No. 137271, August 15, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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Grenade blast kills 2

A GROUP of children found a grenade and accidentally set it off while playing with the explosive, killing two people and injuring eight others in Caloocan City yesterday, police said.

"They were playing with it, unaware that it is a grenade," Chief Inspector Lino Garcia said on radio.

Two of the victims were dead on arrival at a Caloocan hospital, while eight others were treated for injuries, Garcia added.

He did not say if the children are among the casualties or how they obtained the grenade. ***AFP***

Former Comelec . . .

From page A21

has repeatedly said she is ready to cooperate with investigators.

But when the NBI summoned her earlier this month, she snubbed the investigation bureau.

The investigator said most of the evidence against Matibag was based on the testimonies of many witnesses who came forward.

The witnesses include two men whom Fortich allegedly offered money to kill Cinco. The two men refused the offer.

The other witnesses included Comelec employees who heard Matibag threaten to kill Cinco.

The bureau earlier charged Conrado Robles, 47, of Barangay Malakimpook, San Pascual, Batangas, with Cinco's murder.

Robles was allegedly one of two gunmen on a motorcycle who ambushed Cinco. A former casual employee at the Comelec, Robles lost his job when Cinco took over the Comelec education and information department from Matibag.

A witness said he saw Pangilinan with Robles shortly before the ambush.

The witness said he was waiting for a ride when he saw Pangilinan, with a 9 mm pistol, near the crime scene. Pangilinan allegedly threatened the witness.

"We'll consolidate their case and that of Robles," the investigator said. "The ball is now in the city prosecutor's court."

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7 HINOG SA PILIT
8 VANILLA SKY

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1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 KATE & LEOPOLD
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 VANILLA SKY
5 SHALLOW HAL
6 HINOG SA PILIT
7 RAT RACE
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
10 ISANG PANAGINIP

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 RAT RACE
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 SHALLOW HAL
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 FROM HELL
11 KATE & LEOPOLD
12 HINOG SA PILIT

SM CITY MANILA
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1 SHALLOW HAL
2 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3 KATE & LEOPOLD
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 FROM HELL
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 THE OTHERS
8 RAT RACE
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 IKAW LAMANG . . .
11 HINOG SA PILIT
12 VANILLA SKY

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1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 KATE & LEOPOLD
3 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 RAT RACE
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN
7 HINOG SA PILIT
8 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 SHALLOW HAL
11 VANILLA SKY
12 RIDING IN CARS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 KATE & LEOPOLD
2 VANILLA SKY
3 HINOG SA PILIT
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .
5 RAT RACE
6 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
7 SHALLOW HAL
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
9 CLOSED
10 CLOSED
11 CLOSED
12 CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066792

1 RAT RACE
2 VANILLA SKY
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 SHALLOW HAL
5 BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 KATE & LEOPOLD
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
10 HINOG SA PILIT

SM CITY CEBU
2313878

1 LOVE BEYOND TIME
2 THE OTHERS
3 VANILLA SKY
4 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS
5 LORD OF THE RINGS
6 KAULAYAW
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 GLASS HOUSE
2 CLOSED
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 IKAW LAMANG
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7 VANILLA SKY
8 HEARTS IN ATLANTIS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 KATE & LEOPOLD
3 MARSHALL DICK
4 KAULAYAW
5 RIDING IN CARS
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1 HINOG SA PILIT
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 RAT RACE

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3 SHALLOW HAL
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CITY DAVAO
2976968

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 CORKY ROMANO
4 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
5 VANILLA SKY
6 THE OTHERS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

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4 NEW
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SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

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4 NEW
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3 (DTS) BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 GOLD (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) RAT RACE
6 GOLD (SDDS) MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SHALLOW HAL
8 KATE & LEOPOLD
9 IKAW LAMANG .
10 VANILLA SKY

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
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1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 HINOG SA PILIT

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1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 HINOG SA PILIT

METROPOLIS star
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1 SHALLOW HAL
2 HINOG SA PILIT
3 IKAW LAMANG . .
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 RAT RACE
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
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1 SHALLOW HAL

Center Plaza Cinema
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1 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
2 VANILLA SKY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
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1
2 HAPLOS NG PAGMAMAHAL
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

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1 HINOG SA PILIT
A RESERVE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 BUBOT
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2
3
4 HINOG SA PILIT
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
8 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
9 (DOLBY) RAT RACE

Gotesco Caloocan
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2 HINOG SA PILIT

Gotesco Grand Central
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1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (SDDS) RAT RACE
5 HINOG SA PILIT
6 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
8 KAULAYAW
9 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

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1 (DTS) SHALLOW HAL
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 HINOG SA PILIT
4 RESERVE
5 (SDDS) MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 RAT RACE
7 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 RESERVE

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1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 HINOG SA PILIT
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 RAT RACE
5 (SDDS) SHALLOW HAL

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1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 SHALLOW HAL

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3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

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1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 RESERVE
4 HINOG SA PILIT
5 SHALLOW HAL

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1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 HINOG SA PILIT
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Berma
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1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 BUKO PANDAN
2 SHALLOW HAL

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 RIDING IN CARS
2 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 SHALLOW HAL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 RIDING IN CARS
2 (DOLBY) SHALLOW HAL
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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1 FINAL ANSWER
2 IKAW LAMANG
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 KAULAYAW
3 (DOLBY) KATE & LEOPOLD
4 (DTS) HEARTS IN ATLANTIC

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 GIRLS FEVER
3 ANGELS EYE
4 (DTS) RESERVE

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DTS) MARSHALL DICK
4 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
5 SHALLOW HAL

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 SHALLOW HAL

Olivarez Los Baños
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1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 SHALLOW HAL

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1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 KAULAYAW

Morales Cinema
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1 MARSHALL DICK
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 RESERVE

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1 (DTS) FINAL ANSWER
2 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

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1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 IKAW LAMANG

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1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 HEART IN ATLANTIC
3 VANILLA SKY
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .

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1 (DOLBY EX) KATE & LEOPOLD
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 THE OTHERS

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6 RIDING IN CARS
7 VANILLA SKY
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .
9 KATE & LEOPOLD
10 BLACK HAWK DOWN

ermita
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1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 RAT RACE
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
7 SHALLOW HAL

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1 KATE & LEOPOLD
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 IKAW LAMANG. . .
4 RAT RACE
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 HINOG SA PILIT
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 VANILLA SKY

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1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 VANILLA SKY
3 BLACK HAWK DOWN
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 SHALLOW HAL
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 RAT RACE
8 KATE & LEOPOLD

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1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3 HINOG SA PILIT
4 SHALLOW HAL
5 IKAW LAMANG . . .
6 RAT RACE

bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 VANILLA SKY
2 LORD OF THE RINGS
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 GLASS HOUSE
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE

iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 HEART IN ATLANTIS
3 IKAW LAMANG . . . .
4 GLASS HOUSE
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 LORD OF THE RINGS

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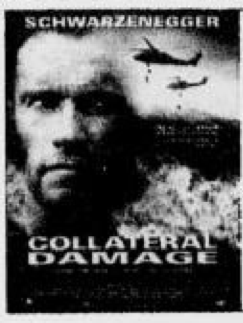

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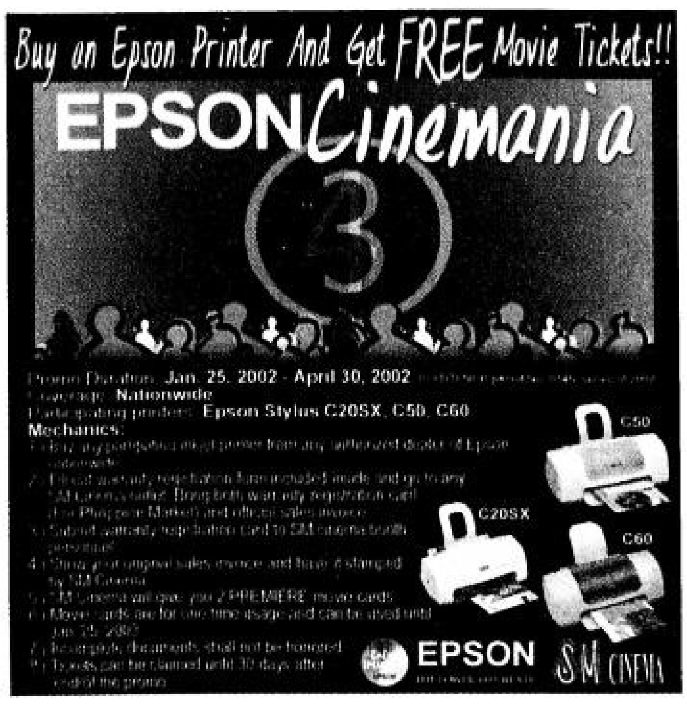
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Follow sanitary rules before using landfill, mayors told

By Alcuin Papa

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority reminded all local government units that they have to comply with sanitary requirements before they can dump their trash in the landfill in Rodriguez, Rizal.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. made the reminder after mayors complained they were still not allowed to dump their trash in the newly opened landfill.

Abalos also said he has received complaints from residents that old and dilapidated dump trucks have been ferrying garbage to the landfill, spreading malodorous fumes in the process.

He said the MMDA has an agreement with the municipal government of Rodriguez that Metro Manila towns and cities could use the landfill provided that sanitary requirements are strictly followed.

According to the agreement, old and dilapidated trucks will not be allowed on the routes leading to the landfill site. The trucks should be properly covered and the garbage treated with deodorizers.

Abalos said Metro Manila towns and cities should also follow the schedule that is being drawn up by the MMDA to prevent traffic buildup at the landfill site.

Quezon City, being nearest to the site, has started dumping its garbage in Rodriguez. As soon as the schedule is ready and all the other requirements are fulfilled, the landfill facility would be fully operational, Abalos said.

The MMDA will pay the Rodriguez government a tipping fee of P450 per metric ton of garbage disposed in the landfill.

Abalos said the Rodriguez local government allowed the MMDA to dump 2,000 metric tons of garbage in the landfill daily.

Navotas folk fear 'poison' from new dump

By Christian V. Esguerra

HUNDREDS of Navotas residents are protesting the ongoing construction of a multimillion-peso garbage facility in the coastal town.

Residents, mostly fishpond owners, fear the facility will poison the waters and eventually kill the local fishing industry.

"It's all we have," said Salvador Monroy, referring to the community's livelihood. "We can't afford our main source of livelihood to be put in jeopardy."

But Mayor Tobias Tiangco on Wednesday said the facility, which would begin operation in April, would be safe for the environment.

Navotas, together with the Manila city government, is converting a 10-hectare fishpond in Barangay Tanza into a "controlled garbage facility" to accommodate the 2,000 tons of garbage produced by both areas daily.

The multimillion-peso project is the response of the Navotas and Manila local governments to President Macapagal's ultimatum for LGUs to solve the garbage crisis in Metro Manila.

According to Tiangco, barges will transport garbage from a transfer station at Pier 18 in Manila to Barangay Tanza.

Monroy on Wednesday said he and other residents fear that the garbage might spill into Manila Bay during transit.

Liquid residue might also pollute the waters once the garbage is dumped into the Tanza facility, said Monroy, a former barangay chair.

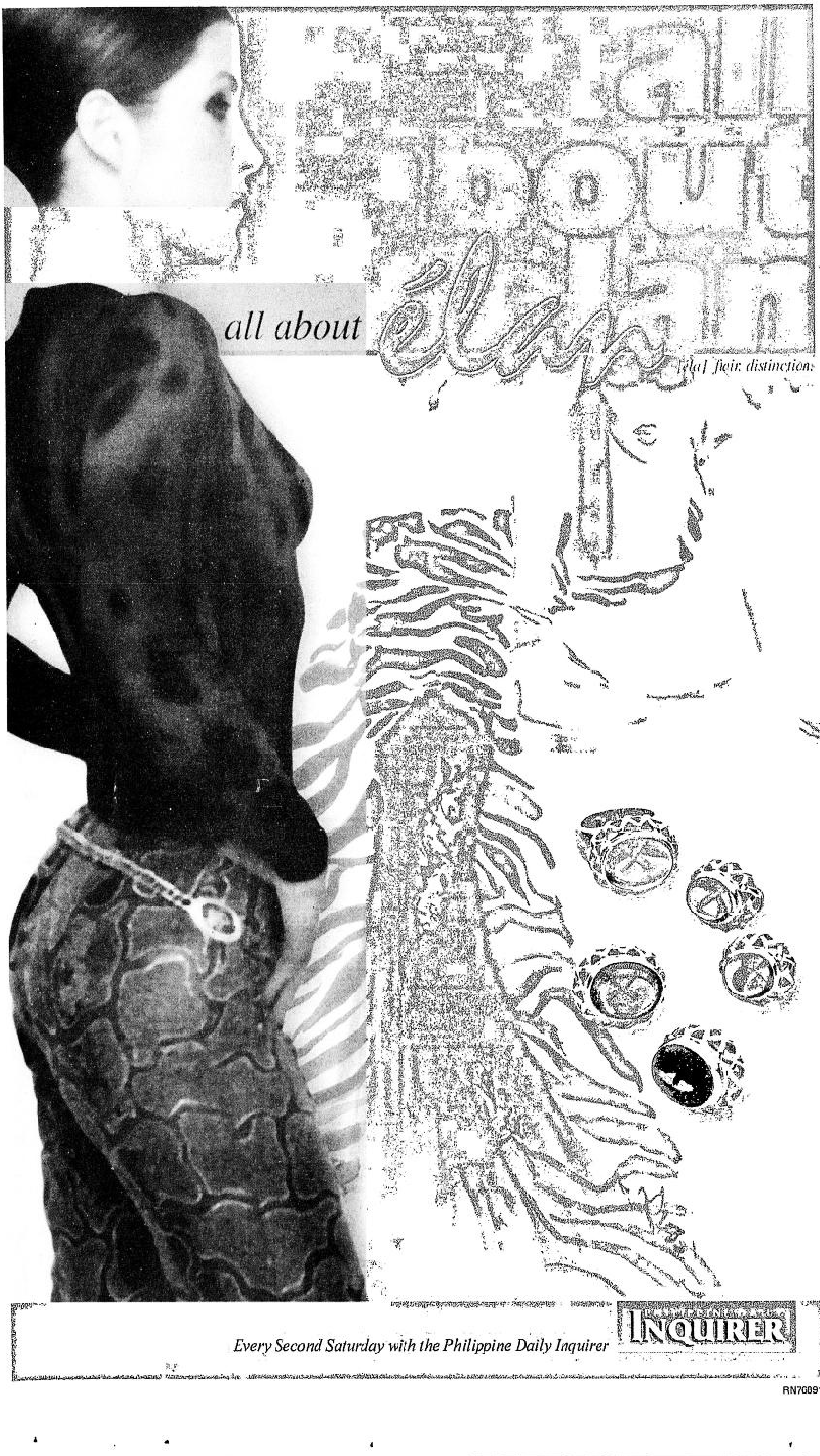
But Tiangco gave the assurance that no garbage would fall off the barges and there would be no leak at the dumpsite.

"This state-of-the art procedure is also done in Tokyo and New York," he said. "So why fear?"

The controlled disposal facility, he pointed out, is protected by the natural "impermeable" clay walls surrounding the site.

These walls, together with other protective barriers, will ensure that garbage will not leak into the waters, according to the mayor.

The dumpsite itself is located 3.7 kilometers from the nearest residential area in Tanza, he added.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'117' foils rob try

A CALL to hotline 117 foiled the attempt of a jobless man to rob the ATM machine of a Metrobank branch in Malabon last Tuesday when Malabon policemen caught him in the act of dismantling the machine.

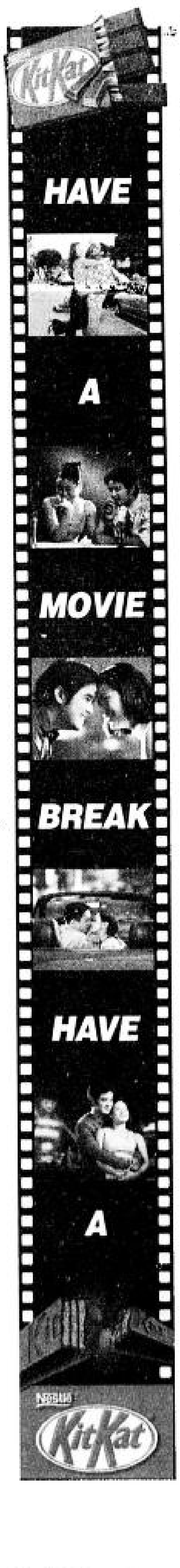
Interior and Local Government Secretary and 117 Commission Chair Joey Lina said policemen from Tugatog Police Substation 2 arrested the suspect through an information relayed through hotline 117.

Senior Supt. Filipino Amoguis, 117 executive director, identified the suspect as Francis Dinglasan, 22, of 15 Maysilo, Malabon.

Amoguis said bank security guard Sixto Pulvera was alerted when a secret alarm of the bank's ATM machine sounded inside the bank. He said he called 117 for police assistance when he saw Dinglasan trying to take apart the ATM machine.

Policemen arrived only three minutes later and arrested Dinglasan.

Call 117 is a community-based anti-crime and development program of the department. By simply calling hotline 117, the public may report crime incidents or request assistance in cases of emergency.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Second Place
Vice Chairman's Trophy
CL-03
NAM Division

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Third Place
President & CEO's Trophy
MS-28
SAM Division

Jelson B. Luna
Fourth Place
Marketing Trophy
MN-27
NAM Division

Marlie Melba P. Fermin
Fifth Place
Marketing Trophy
SM-03
MIN Division

Shiela Marie Gamboa
Sixth Place
Marketing Trophy
SM-03
MIN Division

Edmund T. Mirador
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Marketing Trophy
MS-23
SAM Division

Lucas B. Villanueva
Eighth Place
Marketing Trophy
WV-12
VIS Division

Edilberto Aricheta
Ninth Place
Marketing Trophy
MS-31
SAM Division

Florante G. Magtibay
Tenth Place
Marketing Trophy
MN-19
NAM Division

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First Place
Chairman's Trophy
MS-28
SAM Division

Ma. Perla V. Estrada
Second Place
Vice Chairman's Trophy
SM-03
MIN Division

Bernadette A. Olalia
Third Place
President & CEO's Trophy
CL-03
NAM Division

Digna B. Micaller
Fourth Place
Marketing Trophy
MS-02
SAM Division

Libertad F. de la Chica
Fifth Place
Marketing Trophy
MN-27
NAM Division

Jo Vanessa V. Fillarca
Sixth Place
Marketing Trophy
WV-12
VIS Division

Olivia C. Capulong
Seventh Place
Marketing Trophy
MN-13
NAM Division

Ma. Luz A. Agustin
Eighth Place
Marketing Trophy
MS-17
SAM Division

Corazon A. Magtibay
Ninth Place
Marketing Trophy
MN-19
NAM Division

Amparo P. Mirador
Tenth Place
Marketing Trophy
MS-23
SAM Division

AREA MANAGERS HIGH PERFORMANCE AWARDEES CAP & CAP PENSION

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Teresita M. Gaffud	CVR20	Rowena A. Maruquin	CVH58
Ligaya U. Ranchez	CVR50	Wilfredo T. Abrantes	CLA28
Samuel L. Custodio	CVRP1	Suzanne P. Sicat	CLA72
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Yolita D. Santomin	CLN53	Delia L. Dolores	HWM01
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Regina M. Cruz	CLSL2	Nelson S. Gelveson	HMN41
Edna B. Manansala	CLSC3	William S. Yu	HCM3
Zenaida M. Luz	SLE32	Luzviminda M. Salazar	HMS36
Mateo M. Ganelo	SLW25	Milagros C. Caras	HMS50
Agripino P. Conocido	SLW1	Carolina V. Ceballos	R11L18
Herminio R. Gonzales	SLW18	Rosalina C. Contiñedo	RCM38
Delia M. Ilustre	SLW6	Linang G. Guiaber	RCMC1
Nathaniel F. Suarez	WVC2	Thelma L. Malinao	RCM6
Eufelia Zoraida A. Manangulte	REVO9	Ricardo G. Hermogeno	RMN5
Rosalia F. Camins	SWM5	Lutgarda M. Cruz	RMNP1
Catherine M. Ong	SWM6	Felicidad C. Conde	RMNP10
Leticia T. Araneta	SWM16	Herma G. Barrozo	RMNP2
Jovita M. Catane	NMR13	Norberto T. Bandola	RMS4
Ligaya S. Palacio	RN11	Angelita I. Clelo	MM11
Leoncia A. Fernandez	R11RO1	Amado C. Buensalida	MM37
Evangeline T. Rosal	R11RO5	Estrellita L. Panti	MM72
Wilfredo C. Santos	R11CO2	Yolanda V. Alim	RMS1
Gromyko R. Garcia, Sr.	NWH46	Elnora G. Filamor	RMS2
Dona Liberty A. Bautista	NWH35	Gerlie D. Bracamonte	RMS7
Lilian V. Anicoche	NWH03	Aurelio A. Tabangcura	RMS10
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Ronnie B. Ronquillo	NWH43	Belen O. Tiongson	RMS18
Cristeta D. Salvador	NWH01	Brenda C. Divinagracia	RMS19
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HCM3-Region 13
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MM72-Region 14
Head Office, Makati City

3rd **Gerlie D. Bracamonte (SAVP)**
First Asst. Vice President
RMS.07-Region 14
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4th **Angelita I. Clelo**
First Vice President
MM11-Region 14
Head Office - Makati City

5th **Linang G. Guiaber (RAM)**
Candidate Area Manager
RCMC1-Region 12
Cotabato City

6th **Miguel S. Rubia**
Asst. Vice President
NWH15-Region 1
Candon, Ilocos Sur

7th **Elnora G. Filamor (FAVP)**
Asst. Vice President
RMS2-Region 14
Novaliches, Quezon City

8th **Yolanda V. Alim**
Asst. Vice President
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9th **Ligaya S. Palacio (SAVP)**
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	IKAW LAMANG . . .
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	HINOG SA PILIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (SDDS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SHALLOW HAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	VANILLA SKY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	RAT RACE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	IKAW LAMANG . . .
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TATARIN / BOLD AFFAIR
ODEON	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ODEON-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
ROBEN	HINOG SA PILIT
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	THE ONE / CAPT. CORELLI'S MANDOLIN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HINOG SA PILIT
REMAR	HINOG SA PILIT
REMAR-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON
B	HINOG SA PILIT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-2	SHALLOW HAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
CINEMA-3	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-6	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-7	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-8	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	RIDING CARS w/ BOYS
CINEMA-12	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-14	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-15	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	RAT RACE
CINEMA-2	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-3	SHALLOW HAL
CINEMA-4	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
CINEMA-5	RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS
CINEMA-6	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

FILLER

POWER PLANT CINEMA

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RAT RACE - GP 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	KATE & LEOPOLD - GP 11:40, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10	SHALLOW HAL - P 13 10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:46, 10:20
MOTHMAN PROPHECIES - P 13 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	RIDING IN CARS w/ BOYS - P 13 10:50, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00	COLLATERAL DAMAGE - R 18 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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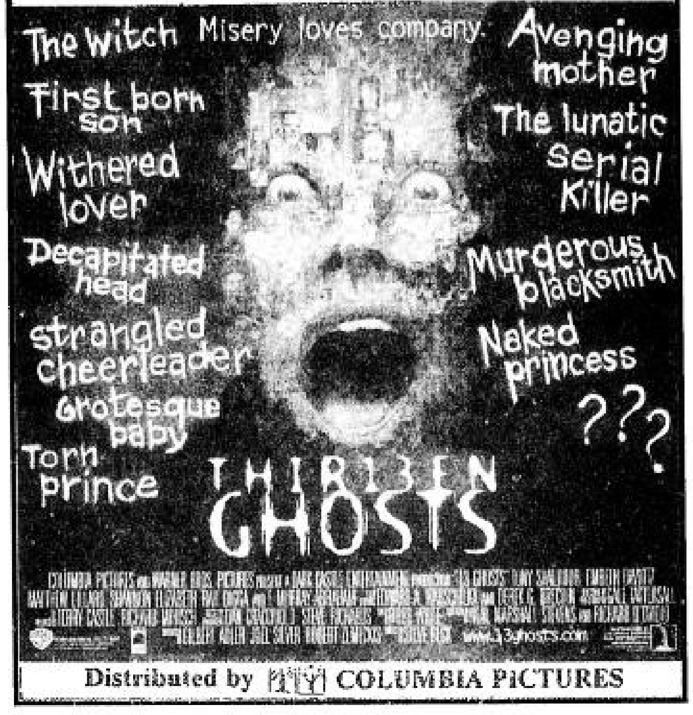

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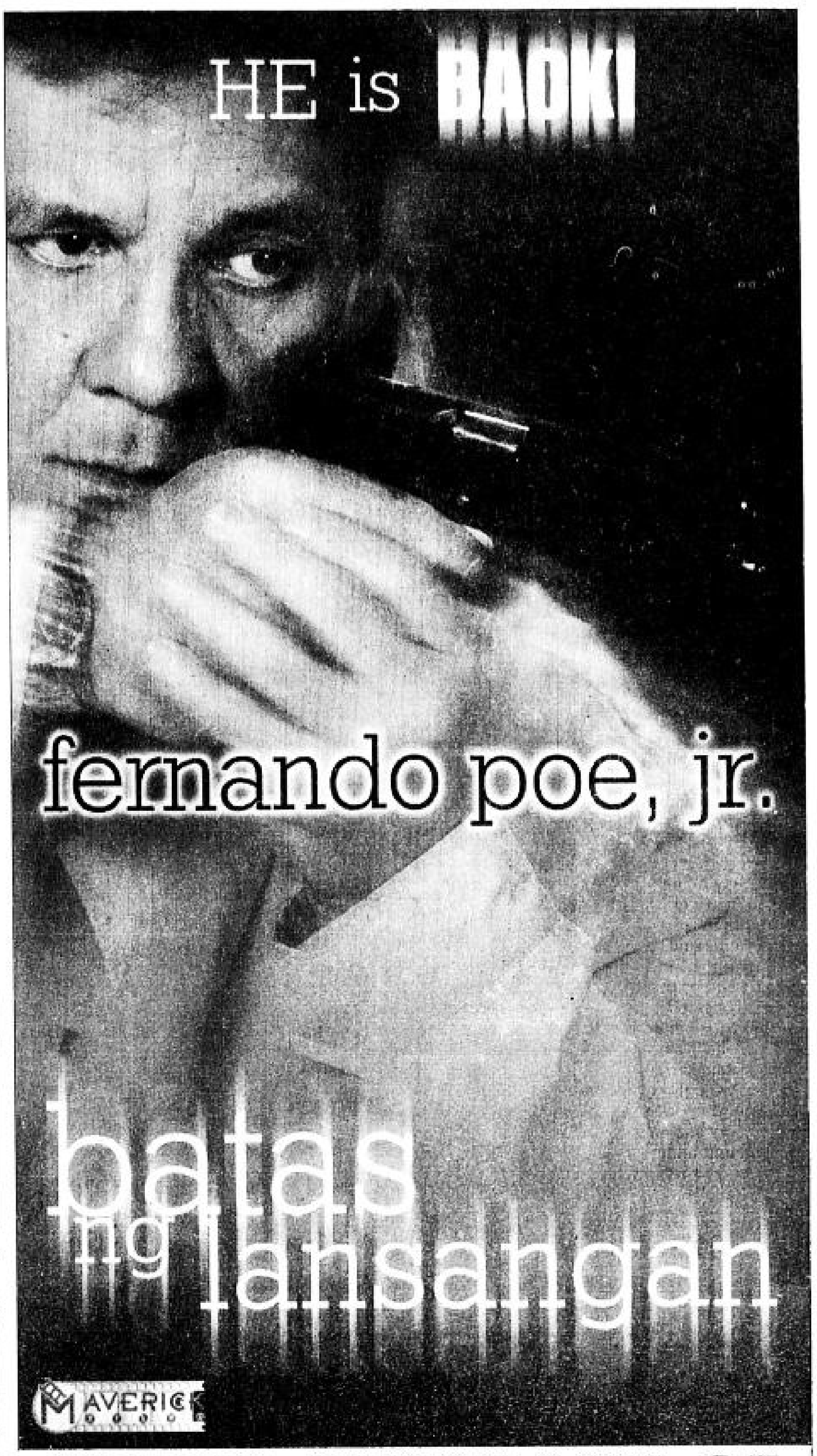
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *'THE FUGITIVE'*

BEL AIR www.collateraldamage.net AOL Keyword: Collateral Damage WARNER BROS. PICTURES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* ADDITIONAL RAFFLE DRAW & PRIZES

TRANSACTION PERIOD	CUT-OFF DATE/ SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES	RAFFLE DRAW DATE/TIME	PRIZE
Feb. 1-28, 2002	Feb. 28, 2002	Mar. 15, 2002 / 3 pm	DD Hamilton eye wear
Mar. 1-31, 2002	Mar. 31, 2002	Apr. 12, 2002 / 3 pm	Figatti eye wear
Apr. 1-30, 2002	Apr. 30, 2002	May 15, 2002 / 3 pm	James Dean eye wear

AstroVision

See posters for details

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Robberies mix with history in Intramuros

By Philip C. Tubeza

ROBBERS have virtually turned historic Intramuros into their happy hunting ground.

Shipping accountant Alain Silverio, 27, lost nearly P150,000 to five armed men who held him up in front of the San Agustin Church about 10:30 p.m. on Feb. 1.

It was only last Thursday that Silverio, an accountant of the North Front Shipping Service in Ermita, recovered from the experience and reported the crime to the Western Police District's theft and robbery section.

Silverio told police that the robbers took his Tag Heuer watch worth P48,000, a Nokia 8850 cell phone worth P32,000, a gold bracelet worth P30,000, a gold necklace worth P17,000, and two gold rings worth P16,000.

Silverio said he was walking in front of the historic church when an FX taxi (PYC-986) blocked his path.

One of the men on board the taxi pulled out a handgun and told Silverio to get into the FX taxi. The armed men proceeded to take Silverio's belongings before letting him go.

The victim was so shaken with the experience that he was not able to report it immediately to the police.

The robbery followed a string of petty thefts involving Ativan Gang members who prey on foreign tourists inside the walled city, a popular tourist site.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza earlier ordered the Manila police to crack down on criminals who prey on tourists. He scored the WPD after a Saudi Arabian complained that some Ermita policemen tried to rob him of $1,500.

Tourism authorities also raised an alarm and requested police officials to take strident measures to protect tourists in the area.

The WPD has already issued a statement assuring everyone it was doing its best to go after criminals. Two police battalions were supposed to be deployed in downtown Manila to increase police visibility and deter criminals.

A special unit under the WPD General Assignment Section was also set up to deal with foreigners victimized by criminals.

Old woman missing

ILUMINADA "Luming" Cruz, 80 years old and 4-foot-10, is missing.

When last seen, she was in a blue dress and yellow slippers.

If you know where she is, please call the Marikina City Rescue 161 at 646-2336 to 38, 941-4661 or 475-1763, or bring her to 396 J.P. Rizal St., Sto. Niño, Marikina City.

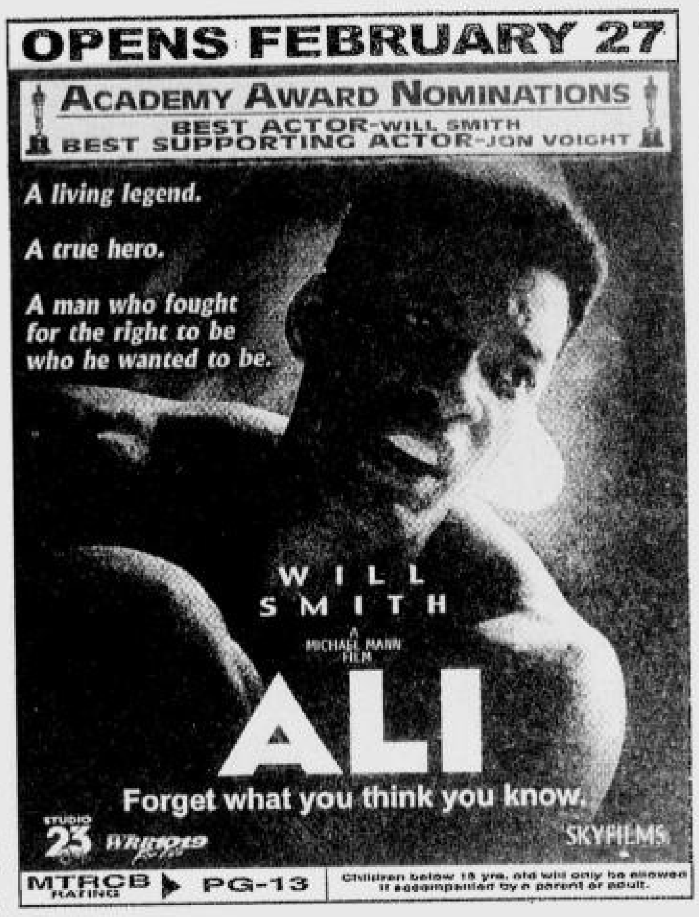
3 slay suspects fall

ANTIPOLO police on Thursday arrested Mark Paul Yim, 20, Arce Garcia, 20, and Ronald Morales, 20, for killing student Albert Supan, 17.

Senior Supt. Arturo Tolentino, Rizal Provincial Police Office director, said witnesses identified the suspects as the ones who killed Supan, a resident of Barangay San Isidro, on Wednesday.

Police are looking for other suspects — Edison Magtibay, 20, Bryan Briones, 17, and Rolando Acebuche.

Tolentino said Supan's body was found about 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Pines City Executive Subdivision. *Nelson F. Flores*



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"The perfect date movie..." -Butch Francisco, Philippine Star
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A film by Yam Laranas
Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon
Starring CANDY PANGILINAN · TANYA GARCIA
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G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES	1 THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES	4 VANILLA SKY	1 BRIDE W/ WHITE HAIR (Exclusive Screening)	1 SHALLOW HAL (THX)
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE	2 RAT RACE	5 KATE &LEOPOLD	2 SHALLOW HAL	2 THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
3 SHALLOW HAL	3 SHALLOW HAL (THX) GUARANTEED SEATS	6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE	3 NOWHERE TO HIDE (Phil. Premiere)	3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON		7 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON	4 Onstage ILLUSIONE FEB. 22, 23 & MARCH 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16	4 KATE &LEOPOLD
				5 RAT RACE

The Ayala Malls Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

MAKATI

GLOBAL BEAUTY II (Crazy, Sexy, Cool)
Everything you need to know on fragrance, hair & style color, make up to get into the groove

SHOES+PERFORMANCE
ACCP presentation featuring show stopping numbers centered around five types of shoes: classic pointe, bakya, sneakers, ballet shoes and flippers
Glorietta Activity Center
Feb. 23, 2pm & 6pm, Feb. 24, 4pm

ISUZU CAR EXHIBIT
An exhibit featuring the latest Isuzu models.
Glorietta Activity Center
February 28, to March 3, 2002

ALABANG

ALABANG TOWN CENTER EVENTS
February 23
LI'L HANDS CLUB
4th ANNIVERSARY EVENT
Activity Center

Kids are sure to enjoy fun activities with with LI'L HANDS CLUB with parlor games, balloon sculpture, various arts and crafts, mascot appearances, special numbers and exciting raffles draws!

Registration starts at 10:00 am

CEBU

AYALA CENTER CEBU
LIST OF ACTIVITIES
For the Period Feb. 21 to 27, 2002

Activity Center
Feb. 23 (Sat.) - Child Development Center Cebu's Spring Festival
Feb. 24 (Sun.)
Little Love Act's Grand Competition (Cookie Decorating Contest for Dads & Kids)

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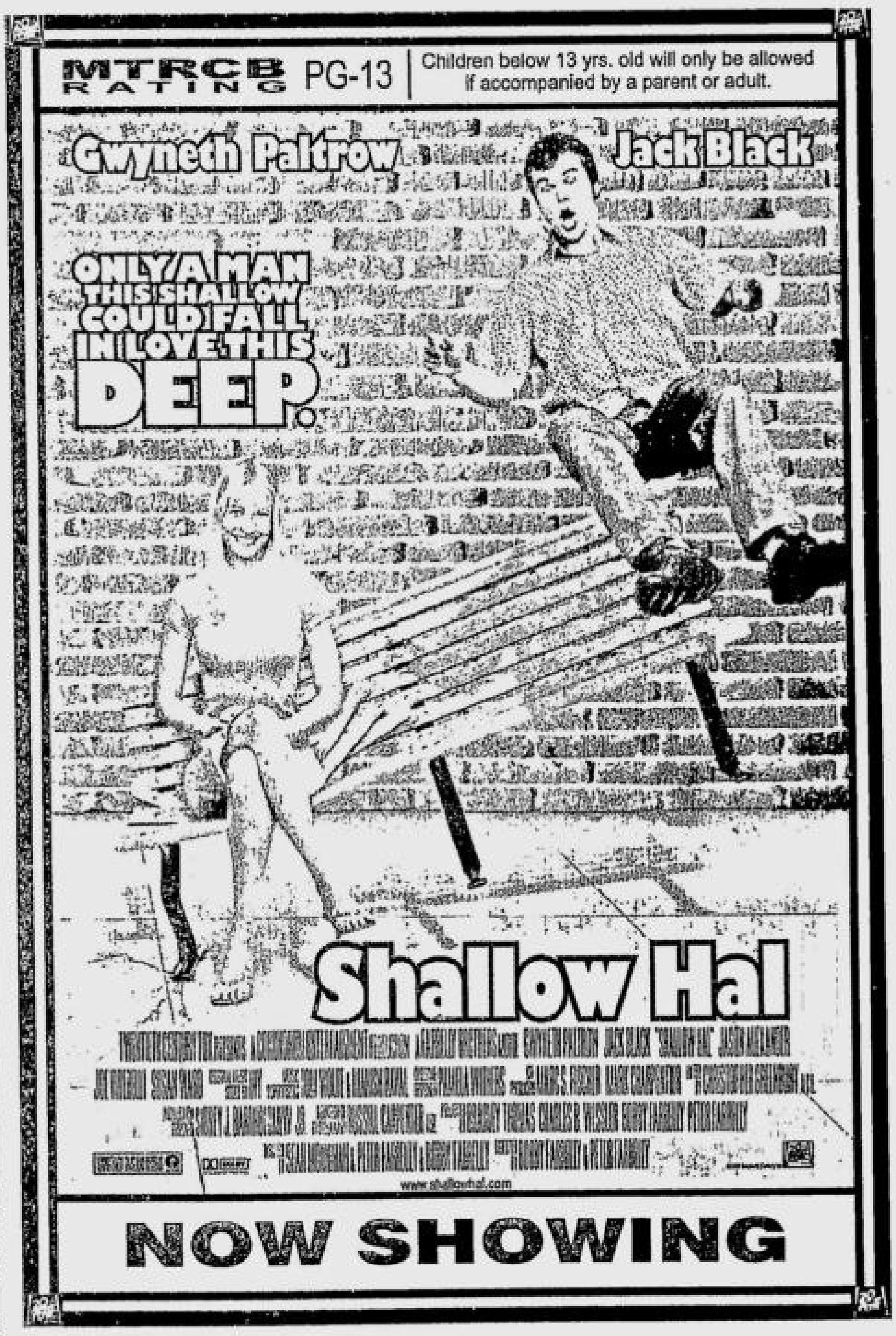

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Gwyneth Paltrow Jack Black
ONLY A MAN THIS SHALLOW COULD FALL IN LOVE THIS DEEP.
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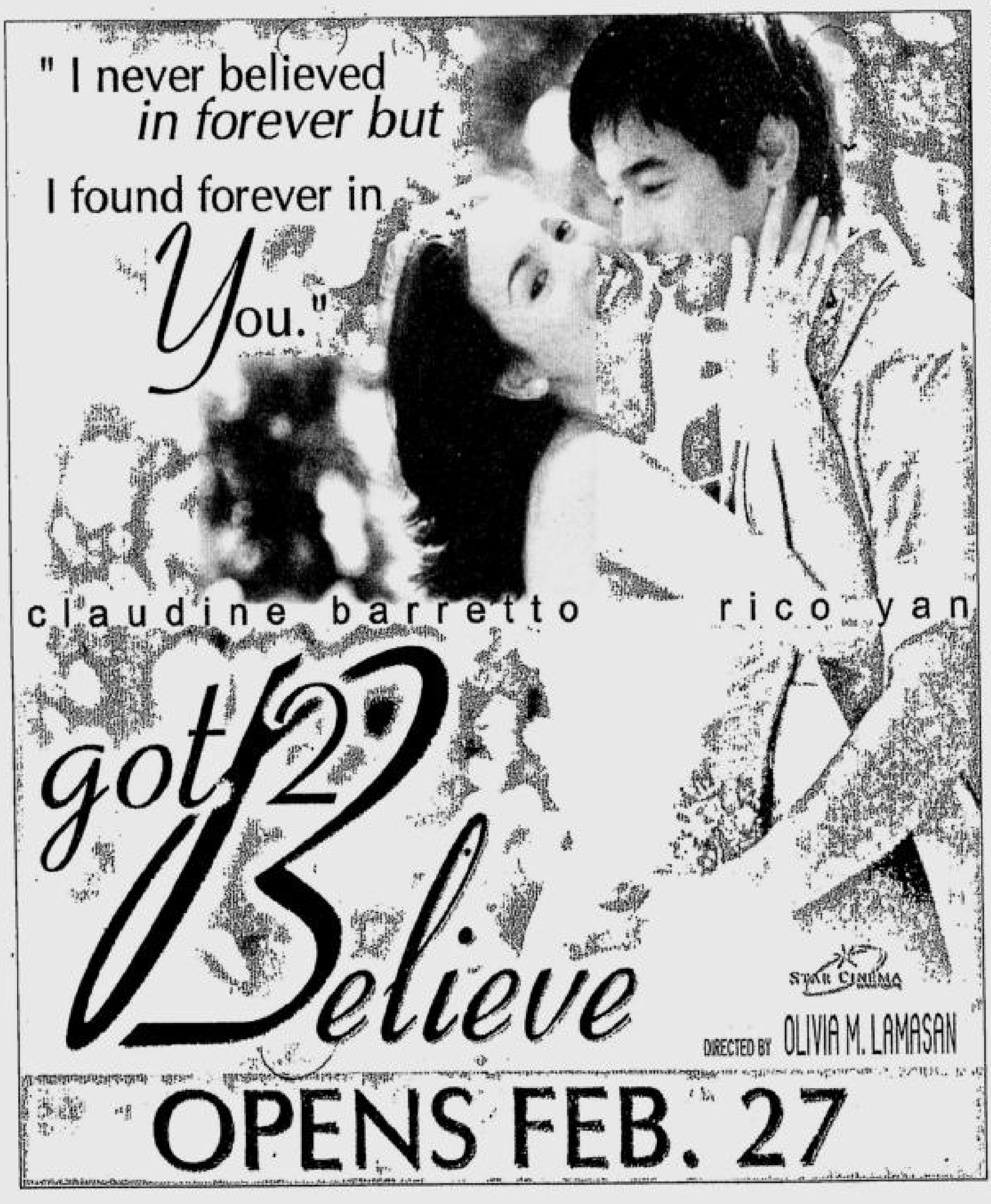

" I never believed in forever but I found forever in You."
claudine barretto rico yan
got 2 Believe
STAR CINEMA
DIRECTED BY OLIVIA M. LAMASAN
OPENS FEB. 27

Celebrate
the Chinese Film Festival
ArtFilm, Greenbelt, Feb. 13 to 26
NOW SHOWING
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RELIVE THE TIMELESS STORY OF STRENGTH, SECRETS & TWO WARRIORS WHO WOULD NEVER SURRENDER.
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Bodil Award
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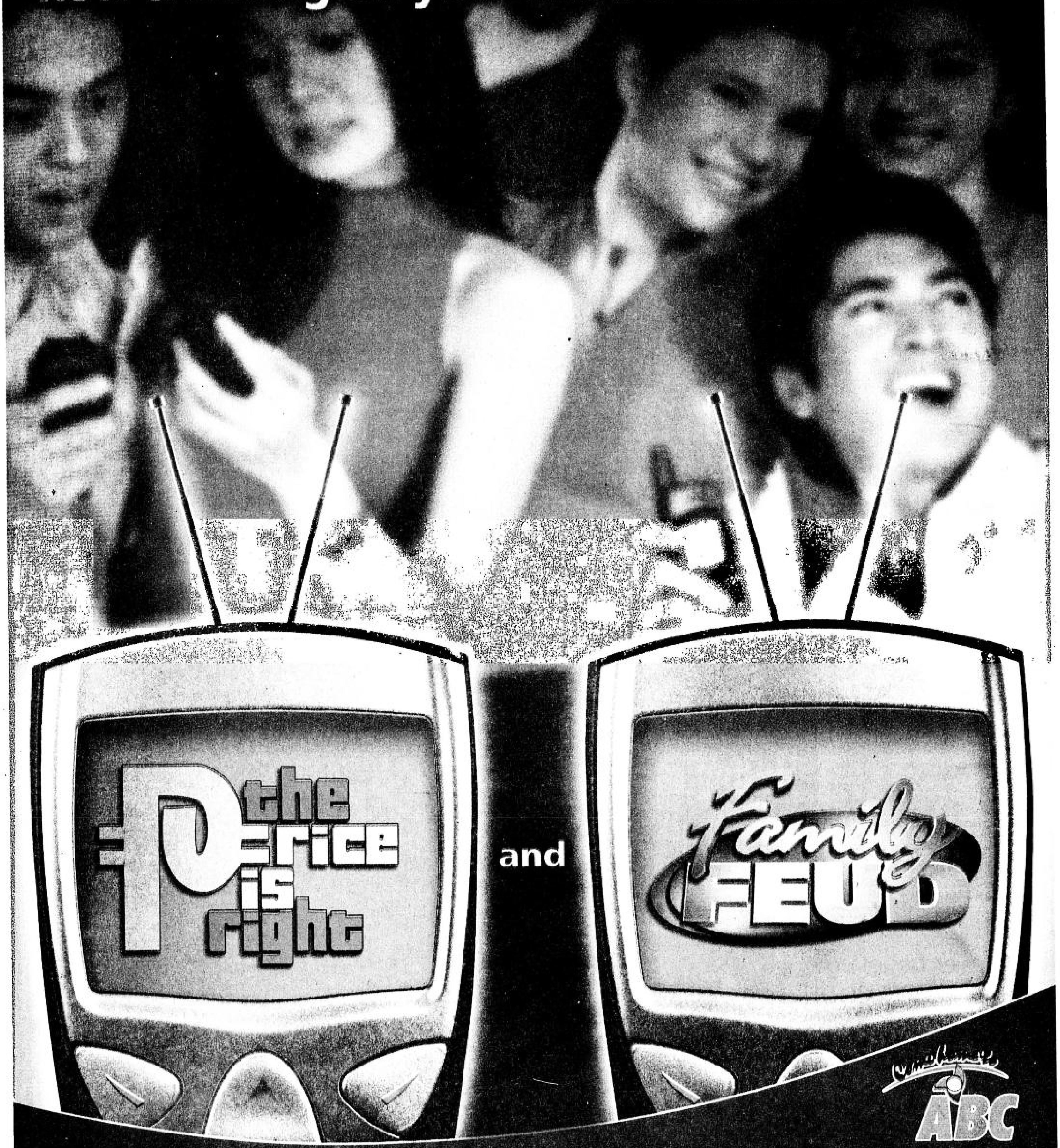
British Academy Awards
Directors Guild of America
European Film Awards
Golden Globe Awards
Golden Horse Award
Norwegian International Film Festival
Toronto International Film Festival
& many more.
AYALA CINEMAS Art Film
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (Re-issue)
CROUCHING TIGER HIDDEN DRAGON

America's longest-running TV game shows are now showing on your SMART celfone screen!



Experience the thrill of Family Feud and Price Is Right on your SMART celfone!

Your favorite game shows aren't just on your TV screen. They're now on your SMART celfone screen! Play Price Is Right, or try your luck with the surveys in Family Feud. Try them now! No need to "come on down" anywhere! Price Is Right and Family Feud are now playing on your SMART celfone!

How to play Price Is Right

PRICE
Key in "PRICE"

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Send to 249

To register for Price Is Right, key in your name...
In a moment, we will send you the step-by-step instructions on how to register and play.

How to play Family Feud

FAMILY
Key in "FAMILY"

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Send to 249

To register for Family Feud, key in your name...
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Gov't nominees take over UCPB board

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday named 14 representatives led by banker Edward Go to the board of United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) as part of an interim two-year agreement with San Miguel Corp. chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. who will keep his post in the food and beverage giant.

Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac said the incumbent directors of UCPB led by chair and president Jeronimo Kilayko have agreed to give way to the President's nominees. The President's nominees were formally installed late afternoon yesterday.

"We want to assure everybody that there is no pushing and shoving at the gates of UCPB. This is not a takeover; the idea is to have a clean entry without scuffles and without ill will," Yorac said.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II, chair of the committee tasked to craft a power-sharing deal with Cojuangco, said the government's entry was "aimed at ensuring that the bank is managed at the highest standards and not used as a tool for other purposes." He refused to elaborate.

Yorac stressed that the President chose professionals (bankers and lawyers) and farmers' representatives to sit on the UCPB board, which oversees the multibillion-peso assets raised through the coconut levy funds. "There are no politicians or movie stars on the board," Yorac said.

The President's nominees were Go (as chair and president), Ramon C. Arceo Jr. (treasurer), Helen R. Osias, Rolando A. Golez, former Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano Paderanga, Carlo Estabillo, Carolina G. Diangco, PCGG Commissioners Victoria Avena (corporate secretary), and Ruben C. Carranza Jr., and farmer representatives Prudencio A. Garcia, Alejandro D. Asis, Vicente A. Fabe, Romeo Royandoyan, and Jose Ma. Faustino.

GO

Yorac said the President opted not to name a 15th board member as she was still making up her mind.

They will replace Kilayko, Juan J. Carlos, Lorenzo V. Tan, Virgilio Jacinto, Redentor T. Alegre, Albert Chua Gohu, Andres Y. Narvasa Jr., Romeo Odi, Manuel R. Pamaran, Rosario R. Razon, Danilo R. Reyes, Mila A. Reforma, Agustin P. Salgado Jr. and Rebecca A. Ynares.

Go will lead the executive committee that will include Arceo, Osias, Golez, and Carranza. Former Sen. Wigberto E. Tañada was designated as adviser to the board.

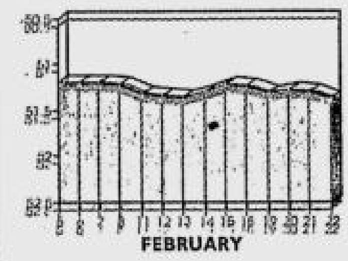
Yorac said the government's entry into UCPB (Cojuangco's allies took over the bank in 1998 under the Estrada administration) signaled the nearing resolution of the ownership dispute to the coconut levy funds. The Supreme Court earlier ruled that the sequestered UCPB shares (representing 94.29 percent equity in the bank) as "indisputably acquired with coco levy funds which are public in character."

Roxas said the government's entry into UCPB was one of the keys to the signing of the two-year interim agreement with Cojuangco who, under the deal, would be allowed to stay as SMC chair for the next two years (or until the courts have ruled on the ownership dispute).

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.368 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 22, 2002

¥134.30 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 22, 2002

GOLD: $293.60/294.10
per ounce Hong Kong,
Feb. 22, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares down

STOCKS yesterday slipped 3.26 percent as investors opted to lock in profits ahead of the long weekend, analysts said.

The drop was mainly on continued correction from the recent rally, escalated by the overnight drop in US stocks and the decision by a US pension fund to divest from emerging markets in Asia, including the Philippines.

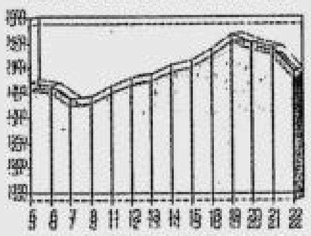
"This a knee jerk reaction to drop in Dow overnight," said Henry Ong, vice president for sales at KGI Securities.

On Thursday, the Dow Jones dropped 1.07 percent on fears about tech companies' shrinking earnings.

The Philippine main index dropped 47.06 points at 1,396.38 points, the lowest since Feb. 13, 2002 at 1,388.64.

Reuters

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Omico junks share-swap deal

GAMING and infrastructure firm Omico Corp. has shelved a P1.65-billion share-swap deal with Chicago-based Internet upstart Iemagine Inc. because of the downturn in the information technology sector in the US market.

The deal would have allowed Omico to acquire a 20-percent stake in Iemagine, which, on the other hand, was to acquire 9.75 billion shares in Omico equivalent to around 12.4 percent of its outstanding shares.

Omico's plan was to issue common shares with a par value of P0.01 per share out of an increase in its authorized capital from P1 to P2 billion.

BSP sees lower inflation rate this year

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said it was expecting inflation to average at between 4.5 percent and 5.5 percent on projections of good farm output production and stable oil prices.

The new projection is lower than the existing 5-percent to 6-percent inflation target of the government for the current year. Last year's rate averaged at 6 percent.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the central bank would recommend the scaling down of the government's inflation target by half-a-percentage point.

"This is not yet final but based on our evaluation so far, we believe that inflation will average at a lower rate of 4.5 to 5.5 percent. We will recommend a revision of the target to the DBCC (Development Budget Coordination Council)," Buenaventura said.

The projection was made despite the recent increase in crude oil prices that has been causing concerns about a possible rise in the pump prices of petroleum products in the country.

Buenaventura said the insistence of Russia, a major oil producer apart from the Arab countries, to continue increasing its crude oil production would help stabilize world oil prices. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has been trying to keep oil prices relatively high by cutting production.

The central bank chief said that the Monetary Board would closely monitor the inflation rate here and the movement of interest rates in the United States. Both are used as basis in setting the BSP's overnight rates.

In an earlier interview, Buenaventura said that the recent quarter-of-a-percentage point cut in the policy rates

BSP/ B2

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BSP says US fund pullout a one-off

MONETARY authorities said yesterday that they did not expect foreign funds to emulate the decision of the largest US pension fund to pull its investments out of the country.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System has announced it is withdrawing from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

Citing factors such as poor transparency, labor standards and human rights, the fund said it would divest its holdings in the Philippine bond and stock markets.

"I don't think other pension funds or investors will follow suit. They are independent," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the Calpers decision was isolated.

"That really doesn't affect us. If at all, it could be the (internationally traded) bonds that will be affected, (but) our bonds are strong."

The US fund's total investments in the Philippines stood at around $25 million, fund managers estimated.

"This accounts for a one-day trading volume in the local market. It should not have any significant effect," AB Capital Securities Inc. analyst Jose Vistan said.

Officials in other countries affected by the Calpers' pullout also shrugged it off.

They said the decision would have little impact, and Malaysia also suggested it showed a lack of insight into the region's potential.

"Malaysia feels that being a relatively new player in the region, Calpers may not have a complete insight into the potential investment value of Southeast Asian emerging markets such as Malaysia," the government's National Economic Action Council said in a statement.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi dismissed the political aspects of the decision.

"It has nothing to do with our record on human rights and democracy because our record is good," he told reporters.

"If we have a poor record, we would not have done well economically. Nobody would want to come to invest in Malaysia, nobody would want to have business in Malaysia."

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra also dismissed suggestions that Thailand might have been ruled out over its human rights record, saying this would be "inexcusable" as Thailand was a rights advocate.

AFP

BSP sees lower . . .

From page B1

should already be sufficient to support economic growth in the first half of the year.

The BSP's overnight borrowing and lending rates are at their seven-year lows of 7.25 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively.

"Any further cuts will depend on whether the US Fed will still cut its rates and whether inflation will move up or down," said Buenaventura. He said that if the central hank would see inflation moving up in the next 12 months, it would stop reducing the BSP's policy rates to arrest any threat to price stability.

"The government is hoping that the US economy will recover during the second half of the year so that our exports may register a rebound from a 15-percent contraction last year," he said.

This year, the government believes export earnings will neither improve nor worsen but a sooner-than-expected recovery of the US economy may allow focal exports to show a modest growth, said the BSP chief.

The interagency DBCC will decide next month or in early April whether the inflation target will be revised. If a revision would be made, other targets including gross domestic products growth would have to be adjusted upward too, said Gilbert Llanto, deputy director general of the National Economic and Development Authority.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, February 22, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	3,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	95	100	95	100	300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67.5	67.5	66.5	66.5	3,453,800
China Banking Corp.	580	580	580	580	1,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	32	31	31	737,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.9	2.3	1.9	2.3	245,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	214	214	210	211	82,640
Philippine National Bank	69.5	69.5	69.5	69.5	3,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	9,000
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.25	18.75	19.25	138,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.25	181,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	133,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	70,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	980	1015	980	1010	69,080
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30	30	30	30	11,600
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.68	0.69	9,770,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	810	815	800	800	15,690
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.0875	0.09	68,200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3	3	30,000
Piltel	0.59	0.6	0.58	0.59	12,370,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	70,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	495	495	485	490	510,960
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	250,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	72,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	32	32	30.5	31.5	808,800
Manila Electric Co. B	49	49	45.5	46	5,228,500
Petron Corp.	1.94	1.96	1.9	1.9	12,784,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	29,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.9	2.95	2.8	2.8	8,330,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	4,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	540,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	6	6.1	6	6.1	8,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	52,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	9,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	79,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.75	23.75	23.25	23.25	153,200
RFM Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	1,301,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48.5	48.5	48	48	347,400
San Miguel Corp. B	65.5	65.5	62.5	63	681,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.68	0.68	0.61	0.61	260,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.66	0.68	0.66	0.66	30,000
Ayala Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.5	6.5	11,082,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.92	1.92	1.88	1.88	950,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12	700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.83	0.83	730,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	320,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	50,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	510,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.6	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	400,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.9	0.91	0.88	0.9	22,270,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	90,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.39	680,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	2,500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.33	3,930,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.16	0.13	0.13	35,010,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	920,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	32.5	32.5	32	32	1,818,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.18	0.18	2,300,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	370,000
Ionics Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.1	8.1	87,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.88	1.9	904,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.83	0.85	0.82	0.85	5,940,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.39	0.36	0.38	9,180,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.38	0.39	9,810,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	540,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	30,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	150,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Federal Chemicals Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	20,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	30,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1	1	0.95	0.95	64,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.095	0.12	0.095	0.12	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	350,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	82,800
Steniel Manufacturing	0.22	0.26	0.22	0.26	220,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Bello Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.53	0.53	15,500,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	110,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	8,700
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	300,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	30.5	31	30	30.5	1,543,600
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	775	775	775	775	10
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.76	24,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	790	790	790	790	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	6,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	15,800,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.25	480,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.3	10,560,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.52	0.52	7,100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	11,810,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.38	2.38	2.34	2.34	11,833,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	1,590,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.78	4,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.16	160,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.2	6.9	6.9	8,988,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.0925	0.095	0.09	0.09	3,600,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	2,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.043	0.042	0.042	24,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	950,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	6,520,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	9,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	12,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	970,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	870,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	1,300,000
Interport Res.	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.005	0.005	0.0046	0.0046	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	47,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.225	0.225	590,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	13,400,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.095	0.1	11,510,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.22	60,000

CURRENCIES

Feb. 22, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.149293	1.000000	51.3030
Japan	Yen	0.008562	0.007450	0.3822
United Kingdom	Pound	1.639237	1.426300	73.1735
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.147535	0.128370	6.5858
Switzerland	Franc	0.676015	0.588201	30.1765
Canada	Dollar	0.722735	0.628852	32.2620
Singapore	Dollar	0.628029	0.546448	28.0344
Australia	Dollar	0.593336	0.516262	26.4858
Bahrain	Dinar	3.048685	2.652661	136.0895
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.306479	0.266667	13.6808
Brunei	Dollar	0.626967	0.545524	27.9870
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000098	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.026234	0.022826	1.1710
UAE	Dirham	0.312988	0.272331	13.9714
Korea	Won	0.000878	0.000764	0.0392
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.870100	44.6387
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Denmark	Kroner	0.134420	0.116959	6.0003
India	Rupee	0.023697	0.020619	1.0578
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.302446	0.263158	13.5008
Mexico	New Peso	0.126505	0.110072	5.6470
New Zealand	Dollar	0.480675	0.418235	21.4567
Norway	Kroner	0.129044	0.112281	5.7604
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DELL™

Globe to float $300M worth of 10-year bonds

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom Inc., the country's second largest telephone firm, said yesterday that it planned to issue up to $300 million worth of 10-year bonds this year to finance its capital expenditures.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Globe chief financial officer Delfin Gonzales said the board approved the bond float, which would come in one or more offerings.

"The issuance is consistent with the company's funding program for 2002," Gonzales said.

The disclosure did not say when the company planned to launch the bonds.

Globe, which is jointly owned by Ayala Corp., Deutsche Telekom AG and Singapore Telecom, earlier said it expected 2002 capital expenditures to be $258 million, most of which would be used to expand its wireless business.

Globe closed P15 lower at P800 as the main index slipped 3.26 percent to 1,396.38 points.

A person familiar with the matter disclosed that the bond float would be done in tranches. The initial offering would be $150 million to $230 million, he said, while the rest would be offered at a later date.

In an investors briefing, Globe chief financial officer Delfin Gonzales Jr. said the telecommunications firm was "evaluating various options for 2002" funding.

"These options include debt and equity, bonds, syndicated loans. We're also looking at peso borrowings. We're evaluating a range of choices. We're still working on the plans," he said.

Apart from P258 million that it has set aside to cover for its capital expenditures, Globe also has some $350 million to $400 million from last year's $751-million budget.

The company recorded a net income of P4.3 billion last year, up 187 percent from the previous year.

Its consolidated revenues went up 76 percent to P35.4 billion from P20.1 billion the previous year.

Globe reported that its wireless subscriber base jumped 70 percent to 4.6 million by end-2001 from only 2.7 million subscribers the previous year.

Its total debt stood at P47.1 billion, while stockholders' equity amounted to P44.2 billion.

RCBC to issue ₱3.6B in 10-year notes

By Elena R. Torrijos

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. is raising tier 2 capital by issuing some P3.6 billion worth of 10-year notes.

Bank officials said RCBC approved the issuance in a board meeting last month and gave its executive committee the discretion to determine the final terms and conditions including the choice of the underwriter.

Records from RCBC showed that the notes would be due and demandable in five years and six months subject to the central bank's rules. The notes would be issued in denominations of either P500,000 or $10,000.

RCBC may exercise a call option on the fifth year at par value. This will allow the bank to refinance without paying the higher cost and without suffering regulatory capital amortization of 20 percent a year over the final five years before maturity.

RCBC has already asked the central bank to approve its plan to issue 10-year notes.

RCBC president Valentin Araneta said earlier that the bank wanted to raise at least P2 billion in tier 2 capital to beef up its P13.5-billion capital.

Tier 2 capital, also referred to as "subordinated debt," is an investment that behaves like a deposit because it earns a pre-determined rate, unlike a shareholder whose rate of return depends on financial performance.

RCBC is the third bank to ask the Monetary Board's approval to raise its capital through a tier 2 investment.

Equitable PCI Bank Inc., the country's fourth largest lender, earlier submitted an application to issue $100 million worth of debt notes or P5 billion in bonds to raise its tier 2 capital.

Palace to equalize taxes on energy sources

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday that he expected Malacañang to issue this month an executive order equalizing taxes for local and imported energy sources.

The energy and finance departments are currently drafting the order, Perez told the INQUIRER.

He said the two departments were discussing the matter following the approval of the implementing rules for the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

He said the law allowed the President to reduce royalties, returns and taxes collected from indigenous sources of energy to "affect a parity of tax treatment with (imported fuels)."

Malacañang has a month from the issuance of the energy law's implementing rules to effect the cut.

Perez disagreed earlier with a proposal to raise taxes on oil products, which he said ran counter to industry deregulation.

"(Such a move would) defeat the purpose of the oil deregulation law, which is to give the consumers competitive prices dictated by free market forces," he said.

The International Monetary Fund has urged the government to raise specific taxes on finished petroleum products to augment its revenues for this year's national budget.

Perez said a better way to beef up the budget was to equalize taxes on indigenous fuels like geothermal and natural gas.

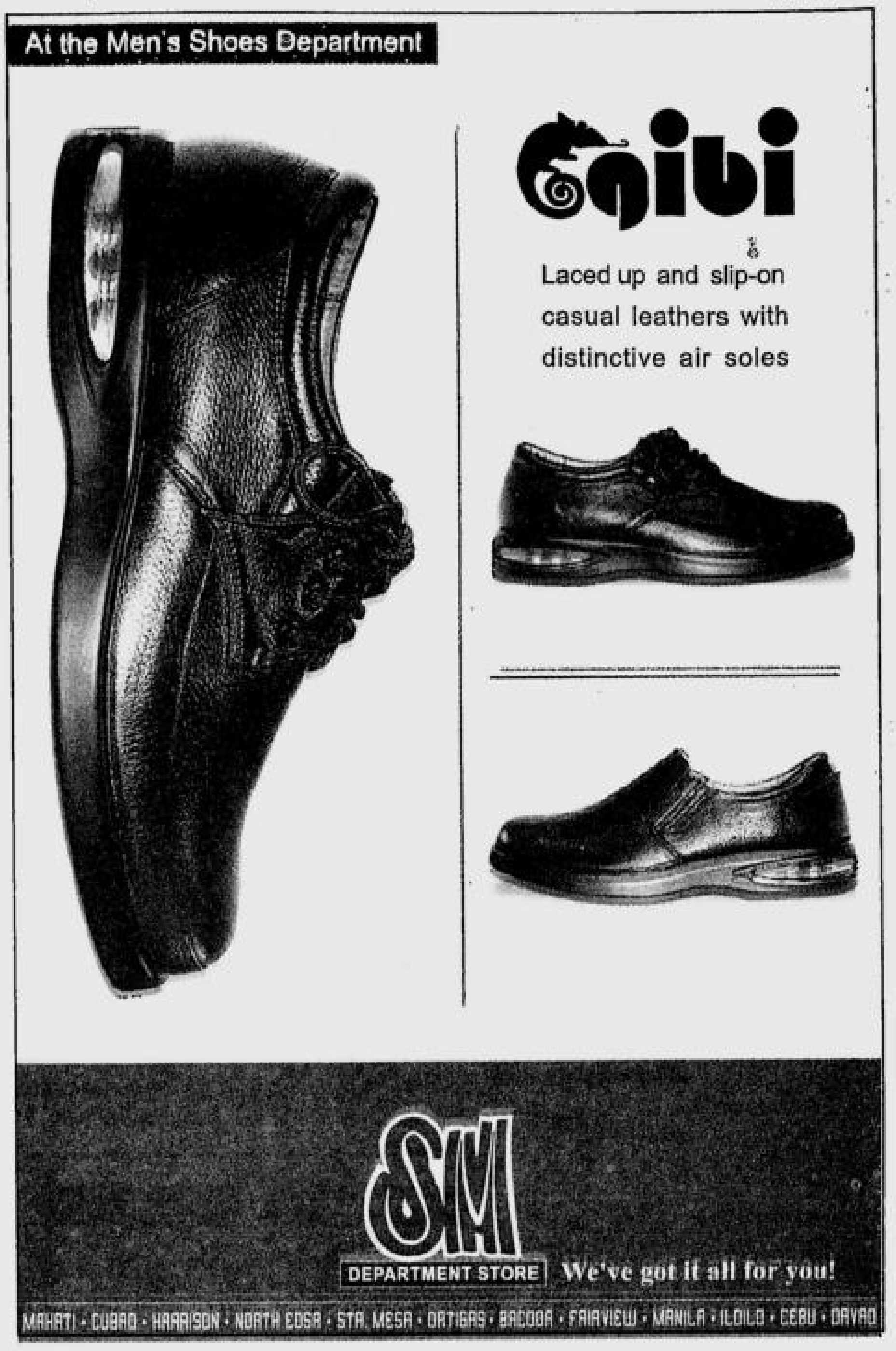
Current taxes on local fuel sources are considered expensive relative to imported ones considering local sources are still being developed, Perez said.

In an earlier interview, Energy Undersecretary Cyril del Callar said, as reflected in power generation, the tax for diesel and bunker fuel accounted for 8 centavos per kilowatthour while those for geothermal and natural gas were pegged at 30 centavos per kwh and 42 centavos per kwh.

Del Callar explained further that current duties on geothermal and other indigenous fuels were set in the '70s.

On the other hand, the restructuring of the oil industry resulted in a uniform 3-percent tariff on petroleum imports.

"Taxes on crude and petroleum products went down, which resulted to a gross distortion of taxes between local and imported fuel," Del Callar said.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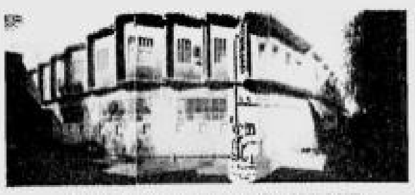

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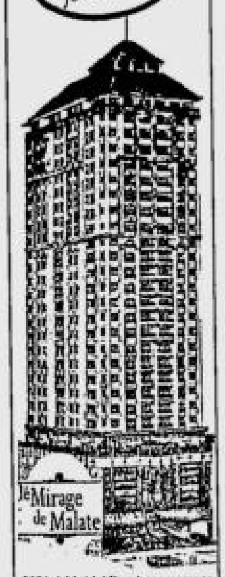

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P8T with Grge nr UP Dillman 4545949 ; 0919-2547024

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94 LITEACE GXL T-6324298

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L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

FREE BIR 8444389

Free Tax Seminar 4568634

Notice of Transfer
JSS Garment Inc. has permanently transferred its firm's quota holdings as follows: CAT.# 338/9-USA, 638/9-USA; Quantity 1,484 dozs., 12,671 dozs.

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION SALE
•March 4, 2002•
All unredeemed articles up to October 1-30, 2001 in the following branches:
•354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
•Pinatubo St. Mand 10AM
•Libertad St corner Sierra Madre Mand. 11AM
109 Dela Rosa St Mkt 1PM
108 Legaspi St Mktl 2PM
V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

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Beauty Parlor Space 4 Sale 77sqm Call 844-5769 816-1472 Tess/Tas Santos

Bo. Kapitolyo 125m² Office or Shop Call 634-1212

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Bldg under construction now!
Exactly across crowded LTO/LTFRB gates 4T/8T/mo.
Hurry limited stalls
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Globe 9% Smart 11% 745-9351

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late espouses **MELITON and CONCHITA LAGUNDA** has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc#75, Page#15, Book#X, Series of 2002 of Notary Public J. Reina Rhea L. Bunoan of Quezon City
(PDI-Feb. 23, March 2 & 9, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL REGION
MIAGAO, ILOILO

Land Reg. Case No. 4 — LRA Record No. N-73718

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, the Director, Land Management Bureau, Escolta, Manila, the Regional Executive Director, Region VI, DENR, Iloilo City, the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, P.T.A. Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, the Director, Forest Management Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman both in Quezon City, Metro Manila, the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Prosecutor, the General Services Officer, the Provincial Engineer, the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, the CENR Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, all in Iloilo City, the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Council, Miagao, Iloilo, Honesto M. Montano, Block 7 Lot 24 Azul St., Dacoville Subdivision, Dumoy, Toril, Davao City, Luthgarda Abagat, Lourdes Golez Nagafio, both at Orbe St. Miagao, Iloilo Dominador Fontilla, Legaspi St. Miagao, Iloilo. AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

An application having been filed in the above entitled case by CONSOLACION SY VELILLA, married to Jose Velilla, Orbe St. Brgy. Baybay Norte, Miagao, Iloilo, thru Atty. Santos B. Aguadera, YMCA Bldg., Iloilo City praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described land with improvements thereon.

A parcel of land (Lot 173, Cad 567-D, Miag-ao Cad., Ap-063030-004968), situated in the Brgy. of Baybay Norte, Mun. of Miag-ao, Prov. of Iloilo, Island of Panay. Bounded on the SE., along lines 1-2-3 by lot 174; on the SW., along lines 3-4-5-6 by lot 172, on the NW., along line 6-7-8 by lot 169, all of Cad. 567-D, Miag-ao Cadastre, on the NE., along line 8-9 by Orbe Street (10.00 m. wide), on the SE., along line 9-1 by lot 175, Cad. 567-D, Miag-ao Cadastre. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being N. 69 deg. 45'E., 216.48 m. from BLLM #1 Cad. 567-D, Miagao Cadastre.

Thence S. 33 deg. 46'W., 4.10 m. to point 2;
Thence S. 47 deg. 06'W., 10.93 m. to point 3;
Thence N. 42 deg. 52'W., 7.41 m. to point 4;
Thence N. 37 deg. 28'E., 0.97 m. to point 5;
Thence N. 45 deg. 13'W., 5.45 m. to point 6;
Thence N. 47 deg. 49'E., 4.60 m. to point 7;
Thence N. 39 deg. 05'E., 18.95 m. to point 8;
Thence S. 54 deg. 44'E., 12.35 m. to point 9;
Thence S. 33 deg. 53'W., 9.84 m. to point of;

beginning, containing, an area of THREE HUNDRED THREE (303) SQUARE METERS, more or less. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by Old points, bearings grid, prepared by Engr. Rogelio M. Santome on June 11, 1993 and approved on May 1993.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this court at its session to be held at Municipal Trial Court, Miagao, Iloilo, Philippines on the 11th day of March 2002 at 9:30 a.m. then and there to present such claim as you may have to said land or any portion thereof, and to submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear at said court at the time and place aforesaid, your default will be recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness the Hon. JUAN L. LAVILLES, JR., MTC Judge of said Court, the 22nd day of October 2001.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 11th day of December 2001

ATTEST:

(Sgd.) SENECIO O. ORTILE
Administrator
Land Registration Authority
By
(Sgd.) SALVADOR L. ORIEL
Chief, Docket Division

A True Copy:
(Sgd.) ADELAIDA I. CARAIG
Chief, Publication of Notices Section

(PDI—Feb. 23, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

S-2 Card #720492 issued on June 3, 1994. Valid till June 3, 1997 with 2 yellow pad booklet series #822526 to 75 on Feb. 20, 2002.
(PDI-Feb.23 & Mar. 2, 2002)

International Floral Craft Co.
needs

FLORAL ARRANGERS

- ☑ Male/female, age below 40
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Mayumi Street, United San Pedro Subdivision,
San Pedro 4023, Laguna, Philippines
Telefax: 869-10-69 / 869-46-94
Or e-mail us at slorenzo@pworld.net.ph

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the general public that the following GLOBE call cards with serial numbers hereinunder specified has been stolen on February 13, 2002.

	From	To
Globe 300	123652381	123676380
	123678381	123680380
	123692381	123700380
	123702381	123706380
	123708381	123710380
Globe 500	141848701	141849700

Hence, we would like to advise the general public to please refrain from buying the specified GLOBE call cards above mentioned. Should there be any information regarding the stolen GLOBE call cards, please report to the Galas Police Station (Station 11), Quezon City at telephone number **7155585** or call the Chief Investigator David L. Allauigan at his cellular phone number **0917-2419351**.

Please be guided accordingly.

(PDI - Feb. 23, 2002)

A COMM'L/PACKAGING PRINTING COMPANY
IS IN URGENT NEED OF THE FF:

SENIOR PRESSMAN FOR SHEETFED MACHINES (Code: SP)

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ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

(Code: AS)

Female, 21-26 years old; graduate of B.S. Accountancy; with at least 1 year experience in acctg. works & familiar with all gov't. remittances; computer literate.

SALARY IS OPEN FOR NEGOTIATION FOR THOSE WHO WILL QUALIFY.

Applicants may apply personally or send in/fax their resumé w/ 2x2 picture and transcript of records addressed to:

HR Department 2275 P. Burgos St., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 831-9668 Fax No. 831-2945.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Address: Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box Nos. 213 U.P. Quezon City, 932 Manila, 1314 Central, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 929-6010 to 19; Fax No. 920-1646

INVITATION TO APPLY ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) is inviting all interested bidders for our forthcoming public bidding for the following:

1. **JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR CY 2002 (APRIL - DEC.)**
   Approved Budget - P597,237.03
2. **SECURITY SERVICES FOR CY 2002 (APRIL - DEC.)**
   Approved Budget - P778,275.00

Issuance of Eligibility requirements & bidding documents	: Feb. 27, 2002
Pre-bid conference	: To be announced later
Bidding	: To be announced later
Bid document Fee (Janitorial and Security Services)	: P100.00

For inquiries interested parties may contact the PBAC Secretariat at Tel. Nos. **929-6011** to **19** loc. 275 (c/o Julie Mendoza).

The Bids and Awards Committee and the institute reserve the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect thereto, accept bids as may be deemed advantageous thereto or postpone the bidding for whatever cause it may deem proper.

In case of failure, a re-bidding shall automatically be scheduled five (5) calendar days after the announcement of failed bidding at the same time and place as the first bidding.

(Sgd.) **ALUMANDA M. DELA ROSA, Ph.D.**
Acting Director

(PDI - Feb. 23, 2002)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"

Damaged Motor Vehicles

1997 Toyota Corolla 1.6/WAX-927
1992 Toyota Corolla 1.3/TEJ-462
1995 Honda Accord 2.0/UDT-864
Various Repairable Appliances

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc. Dick Cariño. Tel.# 75-43-457

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby informed that **MAXWELL HEAVY EQUIPMENT CORPORATION** has transferred its principal place of business from No. 198 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City to **Villongco Street, Sucat, Parañaque City,** with telephone numbers 809-6064/687-1703/687-1698/900-0637/900-0638.

All business transactions involving the Corporation should be conducted solely at the above-mentioned address and through duly authorized representatives only.

The public is hereby warned that **Mr. ERIC U. YU** is not in any way connected with the Corporation. Any transaction entered into by Mr. Yu involving equipment owned by the Corporation will not be honored.

(PDI – Feb. 23, 2002)

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Luzon**

Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, *convenient na sulit pa!*

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Avel and Tita Newsstand, #12 Dahlia Alley,
Maharlika Livelihood Center,
Baguio City
Tel. Nos. (074) 442-6889/443-4367
Mr. Victor Navarro
Times City News Agency, #9 Mt. Province Alley,
2nd Floor Maharlika Livelihood Center, Baguio City
Tel. Nos. (074) 443-4533/445-3175/443-4381
Mr. Rey Elatan
Cora's News Agency, #58 Magnolia Alley,
Maharlika Livelihood Center,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 442-8176
Mr. Juanito Castro
J & R Agency
Parking Lot Upper Mabini Street
(fronting Victoria Supermart) Baguio City
Tel. Nos. 444-6526, (074) 304-2811
Cellphone No. (0918) 280-0175
Batangas City
Mr. Romero Clarin c/o Ms. Wilma C. Dayrit
RVC Newsstand, 7 P. Burgos Street, Batangas City
Tel. No. (043) 723-4426
Mr. Ramon P. Perez c/o Ms. Dodie Simon
Perez Educational & Magazine Store
R&S Perez Building, 46 D. Silang Street,
Batangas City
Tel. Nos. (043) 723-0616/(043) 980-8942
Bulacan
Mr. Manolo Iñigo
Fausta Village, Tabing-ilog, Marilao, Bulacan
Telefax (044) 033-1214, EasyCall 141-287284
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
263 Rizal I., Tancan, Baliwag, Bulacan
Tel. No. (044) 766-1280
Office : Care Communications
Baliwag Shopping Center, 2nd Floor BMG Building
Benero St., Poblacion, Baliwag, Bulacan
Cabanatuan City
Mr. Ruel Capule
#7 Santander Street, Kapt. Pepe Subdivision
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-0823, E-mail: rucap@mozcom.com
City Supermart
Sanciangco Street, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-1149
Mr. Hayward Pablo
#837 Zuniga Street, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-2002

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Himmler John L. Manzano
Nueva Vizcaya Travel & Tours
Poblacion North Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax No. (078) 3267172
Pampanga
Mr. Noel Cabaero
Lot 4 Block 20 Phase II
Corner St. Peter and St. Jude Streets
St. Jude Village, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos. (045) 963-3718/(0918) 505-6249
Gopiao Building, Dolores Homesite
McArthur Highway, Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. (045) 961-3767, e-mail: chersum@pamp.pworld.net.ph
Pangasinan
Mr. Vic Chua
JVC Cargo Forwarders Co. Ltd.
243 Rizal Street, Calasiao, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (075) 522-0505/522-6550
Mr. Mario Novales
Marigold Bookstore
AB Fernandez Avenue, Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (075) 522-2328, Fax No. (075) 522-0079
Mr. Herminio Romero
Romero's Trading
Rizal Street, Poblacion, Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (075) 523-5504/523-5872
Puerto Princesa
Ms. Angelita Leonor
Leonor's Merrimart
E. Valencia Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. (048)434-2200/433-2531/433-2551
Mr. Tomas Choy Tan
40 Quezon Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. No. (048) 433-2892, Cell No. (0918) 2332737
Tuguegarao
Mr. Richmont Pobre
Agdamag Newsstand, Stall#7 Tuguegarao Central Market
Gomez Street, Tuguegarao, Cagayan
Tel. No. (078) 844-1190/844-0364
E-mail: pobre@cag.pworld.net.ph
Tarlac City
Mr. Erlie I. Duduaco c/o E.D. Batteries
F. Tañedo Street, Tarlac City
Tel. No. (045) 982-0653, Cell No. (0917) 448-0351
Fax No. (045) 982-1765

Laguna
Mr. Fernando B. Hernadez
Residence: #10 Marathon Street
Mariquita Pueblo, Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tel Nos.(049)531-2778/(049)837-3023/(0912)818-3559
Store: #250 J. P. Rizal Street, Cabuyao, Laguna
Tel. No. (049) 531-4829
Ms. Susan D. Baybay
MSC Data Exchange Co.
55 Paseo de Escudero, San Pablo City
Tel. No. (049) 562-4597, Fax No. (049) 562-1444
Email: sbaybay@msc.edu.ph
Isabela
Ms. Alice Pua Uy
Lola's Store, Rizal Street, Cauayan, Isabela
Tel. No. (078) 652-2279
Ms. Catalina Javier
Fredlin News and Magazine Agency
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Tel. No. (078) 682-8652/682-3620
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Ms. Irene Solmirano
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Tel. No. (052) 820-1274/480-8099
Cathy P. Sendin
SM Prieto Marketing
Quezon Avenue, Legaspi City
Tel. No. (052) 214-3043/214-3648/820-3748
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Ms. Matilde Manlapo c/o Ms. Rose Perez
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(near Lipa Bank), 9217 Lipa City
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Email: nvinaur@ala-eh.net
Naga City
Mr. Ramon S. Sia
RS Newspaper and Magazine Headquarters
Ground Floor Supermarket, General Luna Street,
Naga City, Tel. No. (054) 473-8711

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Republic of the Philippines
City of Naga
"An Maogmang Lugar"
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Naga City Government will receive tenders for the establishment, management and operation of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) on a site owned by the city government in Bgy. Balatas, Naga City capable of processing at least 70 tons of mixed garbage daily into organic fertilizers and recyclable materials utilizing mechanical and manual processes and provide employment to at least 100 scavengers in the area.

Interested bidders must submit to the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), c/o Environment and Natural Resources Department, City Hall, J. Miranda Ave., Naga City, not later than 5:00 p.m. April 12, 2002 a bidders bond equivalent to 2.5% of their bid proposal and five sets of photocopies of the following documents with each set segregated into three envelopes as follows:

A. **Envelope #1: Proponent's profile:**
   1. Company profile, list of key officials and organizational structure, duly audited financial statements for the years 1999-2001 or from date of creation until 2001 if established after 1999, articles of incorporation and SEC registration, DENR accreditation if any.
   2. Track record of the company in providing MRF or related waste management facilities, list of previous and on-going projects with certificates of completion issued by clients; pictures, description, cost and contact persons of these projects with their postal address and phone/fax number.

B. **Envelope #2: Technical proposal**
   1. Detailed description of the technology and processes to be used.
   2. Minimum standards of garbage to be processed, nature and quantity of compost, recyclables and residue to be generated.
   3. Specifications and number of equipment, facilities and buildings required, minimum area for MRF site.
   4. Organizational and management setup of the facility
   5. Marketing and disposal scheme for end/by-products.
   6. Number of local residents to be directly employed, nature and number of other livelihood opportunities to be generated.
   7. Certificate of site inspection.
   8. Implementation schedule

C. **Envelope #3: Financial proposal**
   1. Detailed project financing scheme; amount, equipment or facilities to be borne by the city, if any
   2. Detailed cost recovery scheme, period for the city to recover its investment, if any.

Bidders are required to visit the Balatas site prior to preparation of their proposal. Site visitation and pre-bid conference is scheduled on **March 11, 2002** at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Naga City. Envelope #1 will be opened on **April 15, 2002**, Envelope #2 on **April 17, 2002** and Envelope #3 on **April 19, 2002** all at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall, Naga City. For details, call Mr. Oscar Orozco, City Environment and Natural Resources Officer, at (054) 473-0775.

The PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, to annul or cancel the bidding, and to accept only such bid as it may consider most advantageous to the city government.

(Sgd.) **JESSE M. ROBREDO**
City Mayor

(PDI - Feb. 23, 25 & Mar. 9, 2002)

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Don't think of her
as gone away-
Her journey's
just begun
Just think of her
as resting
In a place that's
full of fun

And think of her
as here
in the hearts of those
she touched...
for nothing loved
is ever lost
and she was loved
so much!

JAN CARMELETTE "Lizzy" GOMEZ CASTILLO

Born on February 24, 1993

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 14, 2002

Her bereaved parents **Jessie** and **Ner**; sisters **Macy** and **Tracey**; grandparents **Arsenio** (†) and **Amalia Castillo** and **Guding** and **Maria Gomez**; uncles, aunts, cousins, other relatives and friends, request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at the St. Jerome Parish Center, Ayala Alabang from February 21 to 23, 2002 and will be transferred to the family residence in Gov. P.F. Espiritu, Bacoor, Cavite on Saturday, February 23, 2002 at 2:00 PM.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 26, 2002 at Angelus Memorial Park, Bacoor, Cavite after the 2:00 PM Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

Fidelito F. Capistrano

who joined the Creator on December 22, 2001

Sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us, in our moment of grief.

"Whoever honors his father will receive joy from his own children and will be heard when he prays."

LEONARDO C. AQUINO, Sr., M.D.

Of Obando, Bulacan and Malabon, Metro Manila

Peacefully joined our Creator on February 21, 2002
at the age of 75.

His dearest wife **Caring**; children **Narding & Venus, Dave & Zata, Luis & Lucia**; grandchildren **Vernon, Renzo, Liann, Sarah & David**; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will be transferred to the Resurrection Chapel, Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, Philam Homes, Quezon City on Saturday, February 23, 2002 at 3:00 PM.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 26, 2002 at the Valenzuela Memorial Park, Valenzuela City after the 8:00 AM Mass at Philam.

ATTY. BERNARDO M. CUEVAS

After receiving the last sacraments,
*he peacefully joined his Creator & his wife **Emilia Sevilla Cuevas***
on February 22, 2002 at the age of 79.

His bereaved daughters **Ma. Bernardita** and **Anna Maria**, sons-in-law **Eduardo T. Cadiz** and **Aarne B. Dimanlig**; sisters and brother **Carmen C. Arambulo, Remedios** and **Antonio M. Cuevas**; grandchildren **Nicky C. Cadiz, Kino, Regina, Terri** and **Pepo C. Dimanlig**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mortuary of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 26, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

JOSEFINA "Nena" MARTINEZ BERNARDO

June 29, 1904 - February 21, 2002

*Widow of the late **MAYOR PONCIANO A. BERNARDO***

Her bereaved children **CARRIE** and **ARIO REYES, CHING** and **TOTOY NUGUID** (†), **PON** and **EDITH, NOLI** and **BERTIE** (†), **JULIET** (†), **SONNY** and **MILA, MARICHU** and **EKHO LIM, CHERRY** and **ELY RODRIGUEZ**; grandchildren and great grandchildren; **ATE ADA** and children.

Her remains lie in state at the mortuary of Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Bulletin corner Daily Mirror Street, West Triangle, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Monday, February 25, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

ROSARIO ALIKPALA GAA

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 21, 2002
at the age of 77.

Her loving aunt **SIMONA**; uncles **ELEUTERIO, ERNESTO, EDILBERTO, EXEQUIEL**; her brothers **AGAPITO JR.** (†) and **PRIS, FR. SANTIAGO A. GAA** (†), **FRANCY** and **LETY**; her sister **MARILENA** and **AURELIO T. MAGALONG**; nephews and nieces relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 26, 2002 at the La Loma Cemetery after the 12NN Mass at the Arlington Memorial Chapels.

GERARDO P. ROLDAN, SR.

April 23, 1918 - February 21, 2002

Peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 84
at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center
in Quezon City.

His bereaved wife **Rosalia**; children & in-laws by his late wife **Brigida**; **Jess** and **Cris**, **Gerry** and **El**, **Cesar** and **Bu**, **Joe** and **Liza**, **Bert** and **Edna**, **Bel** and **Roland**, **Tin** and **Nestor**, **Nar** and **Zinah**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, his siblings, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 24, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

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"Goodness and mercy shall be with me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." — **Psalm 23**

ANDREA NER ROA

November 30, 1904 - February 21, 2002

Her deceased husband **Federico Ch. Roa** (†)
Children: **Federico, Jr.** (†) and **Praxedes Estanislao**
Roberto and **Inocencia Libao**
Andrea and **Juanito Lazaro** (†)
Patricia and **Pat Patel**
Dado and **Mari Cuerva**
Pete and **Boots Anson**
Eddie and **Alma San Juan**
Angelina and **Desmond Montemayor**
Her grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for her eternal peace.

Her body lies in state at Santuario de San Jose, Duke Street, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong.

Cremation to follow final rites and Mass on Tuesday, February 26, 2002, 9:00 a.m. Main Church Santuario de San Jose.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
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I am the way,
the truth and the life.
No one comes to
the Father except
through Me.
John 14:6

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave
His only begotten Son, that whoever
believes in Him shall not perish
but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

TransCo

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO.TRANSCO 2002-01

Bidding Date: March 11, 2002 — 2:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference: March 4, 2002 — 2:00 PM
(CMMS Project Office)

TWENTY THREE (23) UNITS DESKTOP COMPUTERS
TWO (2) UNITS NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS
SIX (6) UNITS VARIOUS PRINTERS

SOURCE OF FUNDING: FINANCED BY THE GOVERNMENT
APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT TO BE BID:

Sch I Desktop Computers — 23 units P1,570,000.00
Sch II Notebook Computers — 2 units P200,000.00
Sch III Various Printers — 6 units P463,000.00

The following manufacturers/suppliers/distributors, whether 100% local or at most 40% foreign-owned are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above using Single Stage Bidding (SSB/Two-Envelope System) to be opened publicly at CMMS Project Office, Second Floor, Building 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

a. Duly licensed individuals/Sole proprietorship;
b. Partnerships or corporations;
c. Manufacturers/suppliers/distributors forming into a joint venture;
d. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).

Only Bids within the Approved Budget for Contract to be bid will be accepted.

Bidding documents are available on **February 26** to **March 1, 2002** upon payment of P100.00 which is non-refundable. Issuance of bidding documents shall be from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and can be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Materials Management Division-TRANSCO, from Mr. Winnie Gatus at Ground Floor, Building 2, National Power Corporation, BIR Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, Tel. Nos. 922-8432, 924-5245, Fax Nos. 924-5486, 921-2514.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DIVISION-TRANSCO
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI – Feb. 23 & 24, 2002)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Bird of peace

Q. How did the dove become a symbol of innocence and peace?

A. For a number of reasons, mostly religious. In Greek myth, the dove with an olive branch is the emblem of the Athena, goddess of wisdom and peace, as the renewal of life. The dove bearing the freshly plucked leaf to Noah in the Ark after the Flood had receded is deliverance, the messenger of God's forgiveness. It is also the Christian symbol of the Holy Spirit. In various folklore, it is believed that the Devil and witches can transform themselves into any bird or animal shape apart from the dove or the lamb. In Chinese symbolism the dove is longevity, orderliness.

Ooops! Despite what many think, the Bible makes no mention of a snake in the Garden of Eden. According to Genesis (3:2-14), it was a 'serpent' that tempted Eve and convinced her to eat the 'fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.' In olden times, a serpent did not usually refer to a snake, but to any creeping thing that was especially noxious or venomous. The term also extended to imaginary creatures. But in any case, the word *snake* is not used to refer to the creature which tempted Eve.

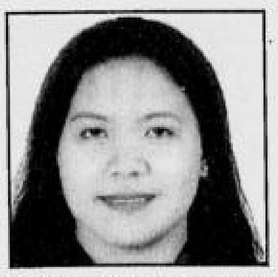
What's the Difference? **Revolution/Rebellion/Revolt.** A *revolution* succeeds. A *rebellion* fails. A *revolt* may or may not succeed. A *revolution* is associated with plots to "overthrow" the government, and that literally is what a *revolution* does. The essential Latin etymological parts are *re-* ('over') and *volvo* ('turn'), so the government is "overturned" or "overthrown." A *rebellion* is an unsuccessful attempt at *revolution*. In Latin, *rebellio* meant "a renewal of war," based on *re-* ("anew") and *bellum* ("war"). The implication is that rebels want to try again. A *revolt* stresses a casting off of allegiance or a refusal to submit to established authority.

WORD WATCH

Lakas : from the Malay *lekas*, 'speed.'

PDI – February 23, 2002

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
OF THE ORDER OF ARREST OF MS. GERALDINE J. SARA



Notice is hereby served on the public that a criminal case for qualified theft has been filed against **MS. GERALDINE J. SARA**, whose picture appears herein, before the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 34 docketed as Criminal Case No. 01-194795-96 and entitled "People of the Philippines vs. Geraldine J. Sara". No bail has been recommended.

A warrant for her arrest has been issued by the trial court. She is now at large. The last known address of MS. GERALDINE J. SARA was at 003 Brgy. San Andres, Pabton Ville I, Cainta, Rizal and with provincial address at D-10 Paz Avenue, Canetown Subdivision VICMICO, Victoria, Negros Occidental.

If anybody knows her latest whereabouts, kindly contact Tan Acut & Lopez Law Offices at Tel. No. 635-3671.

(PDI -- Feb. 23, 2002)

Repubika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
G6-2002-002

The NPC-GENCO 6 wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 12, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	JO' LABOR & MATERIALS, FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ABS PIPE 2 1/2" DIA. OF MBGPP PLANT A-D	3MAK-02-0052
A2	1 LOT	GASKET SHEETS, SIZE: 1/16" X 60" X 125" AND 1/8" X 72" X 5M PHILIPS OR EQUIV.	3MAK-02-0065
A3	2 SETS	CHAIN HOIST, SINGLE SPEED, MOTORIZED 2 TONS CAP KITO OR EQUIVALENT	3MAK-02-0072
A4	1 LOT	VARIOUS MECHANICAL TOOLS	3PSOD-02-075
		DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 13, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B1	1 LOT	JO' SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATERIALS FOR REPAIR OF PLANT C/TMRP WAREHOUSE	3PSOD02-0086
B2	4 UNITS	ACU, PACKAGE TYPE 7.5 TONS AND 5 TONS, KOPPEL, DEKIN OR EQUIV.	3MAK-02-0087
B3	13 SETS	DISCONNECT SWITCH, 230 KV, MELCO TYPE HSF OR EQUIV.	3MAK-01-0376
B4	1 LOT	CONTINUOUS FORMS	3IMD-02-0002
		DATE OF BIDDING: MARCH 14, 2002; 2:00 PM	
C1	500 PCS	CLAMP, GUY	3ATL-02-0016
C2	200 SETS	GUY-GRIP, DEAD END	3ATL-02-0017
C3	1 LOT	CONVERTER, PULSE SEALER & 4 OTHERS	3NCS-02-0123
C4	1 LOT	HUB, PRINTER AND UPS	3PTG-02-0022
C5	1 SET	DISKETTE DRIVE (HP F1384A)	3PTG-02-0026
C6	4 BOXES	ACETATE FOR DESKJET COLORED PRINTER	3PTG-02-0013
C7	1 LOT	VARIOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES	3PTG-02-0030

For Schedules C1 to C7, bidding shall be handled by TRANSCO South Materials Management Section. Bid documents can be obtained from their office at San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from Procurement Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting February 26, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get pre-qualification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than March 5, 2002 before they are allowed to bid.

Only those pre-qualified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock PM on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in the form of Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) R. J. MEDINA
Manager, Administration
GENCO 6

(PDI -- Feb. 23, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Bldg. No. 1, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. Nos. 743-8301 locals 1125, 1132. Fax (632) 743-1829, 743-1786; Direct 711-9502, 711-9503
e-mail address: osec@doh.gov.ph

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Philippines
Early Childhood Development Project
Supply and Delivery of Various Drugs
IFB No. WB-ECD-02-DOH-001

1. The Government of the Philippines has applied for a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost of Early Childhood Development Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation for bids is issued.

2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of various drugs.

	Items	Quantity	Quantity
1.	Ferrous Sulfate Drops	341,300	bottles
2.	Ferrous Sulfate Syrup	211,800	bottles
3.	Vitamin A 100,000 IU	200,000	capsules
4.	Vitamin A 200,000 IU	1455,600	capsules

3. Bidding will be conducted through the international competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 26 February to 18 March 2002 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Procurement and Logistics Service
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Philippines
Te. No. (632) 711-6831
Telefax No. (632) 711-6712

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000) or US$250 for each Bidding Documents including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash, or bank draft. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 1:00 p.m. on 19 March 2002 for the Supply and Delivery of Various Drugs and on or before 3:00 p.m. on 19 March 2002 for the Supply and Delivery of Ferrous Sulfate Tablets. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2.5% of total bid price in the currency of the bid or another freely convertible currency. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 1:01 p.m. on 19 March 2002 for the Supply and Delivery of Various Drugs and 3:01 p.m. for the Supply and Delivery of Ferrous Sulfate Tablets.

7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the following address at 1:00 p.m. on 7 March 2002 for the Supply and Delivery of Various Drugs and 3:00 p.m. on 7 March 2002 for the Supply and Delivery of Ferrous Sulfate Tablets.

Multi-Media Conference Room
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Philippines

8. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

9. The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Feb. 23 & 24, 2002)

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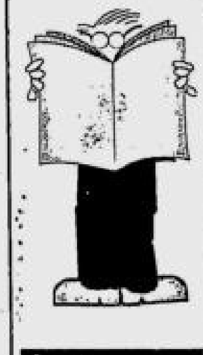

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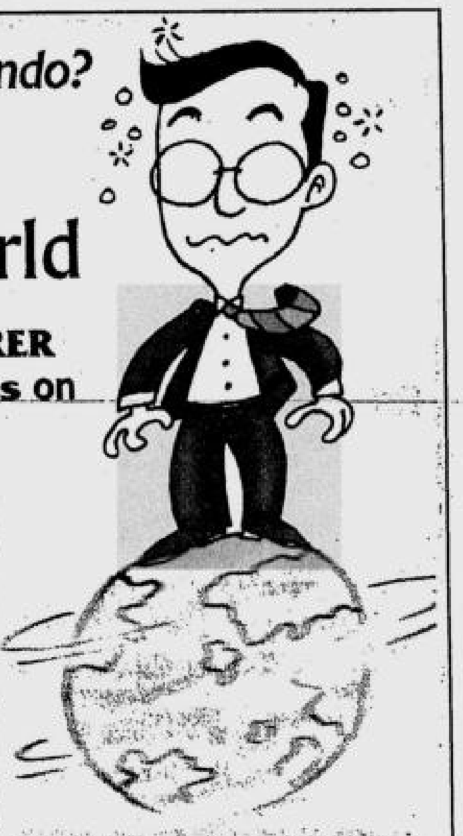

Attend the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER People *at* Work *Live!* Seminar Series on Change Management

March 18, 2002 (Monday)
MANAGING WORK-RELATED STRESS
Tita Datu Puangco, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., will discuss the sources of stress in the workplace and how living the present moment will help you achieve more with less strain. She will share the key to enjoying work which is living "the rainbow life" to ensure an integrated and balanced life.

March 19, 2002 (Tuesday)
SURVIVING WORKPLACE CHANGE
Lirio O. Mapa, Vice President, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc., will talk about how you can prepare yourself for changes. She will also tackle the paradigms and principles that can help you survive workplace changes.

March 20, 2002 (Wednesday)
LEADING ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE
Mark Mackenzie, Managing Principal, S & G International Consulting, Inc., will focus on how you can lead change, not just from the senior management perspective, but from those in all levels of the organization. He will discuss how different types of change are identified, measured and managed by all employees.

TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
VENUE: Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCIB Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila.

REGISTRATION FEES PER SESSION: P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (patron), Early bird discount of 10%, Limited discounted tickets for teachers, gov't. employees (25%) & students (50%)

REGISTER at the following Inquirer Classified Ads branches: Main-Pasong Tamo, Makati City, 897-8808/ 897-2535; G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City 811-4361/ 811-4370/ 811-4012; St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd, Cubao, Quezon City 421-1420/421-0343; SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City 635-0219/ 637-2008; G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila 527-3342/ 528-0183/ 527-6357 *or at the* **Optimus Managers and Advisors, Inc.** *office* 2nd flr., Benjamin I Bldg., 62 Sgt. Esguerra St. cor. Mo. Ignacia Ave. (across ABS-CBN), South Triangle, Quezon City 414-0186, 414-0587.

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

Gracial shows real improvement in treating acne in women

WOMEN power has become a strong and effective force in decision-making and problem-solving in society. Other than just being lifetime partners of their male counterparts, women have made significant contributions in virtually all fields.

As opportunities and roles of women expand, the need for a beautiful countenance is deemed necessary for today's active women. And what could stop them from being productive can likewise be their worst fear—acne.

With a strong commitment to health care and the welfare of women, Organon Philippines Inc. provides a better path to a new identity for clearer and healthier skin with its new anti-acne regimen, a new oral treatment for acne.

If acne is due to hormonal imbalance, Gracial is the treatment that your doctor may prescribe. It is an anti-acne and oral contraceptive pill that is highly effective in stopping acne from becoming worse. It contains desogestrel, a third-generation progestogen with minimal androgenic effects and ethinylestradiol. It effectively decreases testosterone, the hormone likely to cause acne.

Clinical trials reveal its effectiveness in demonstrating estrogen dominance to reduce acne without compromising contraceptive efficacy. As shown in an open, randomized, multicenter study, an improvement in the severity of acne is seen after four treatment cycles. The easy-to-swallow tablet is safe as a 21-day regimen for maintaining clearer and unblemished skin.

For women who desire contraception, a low daily dose of hormones is necessary to prevent pregnancy. It has a 22-day regimen and a shortened pill-free interval of six days. These permit less ovarian activity and provide a greater margin of safety if a tablet is forgotten. It is also proven suitable for women who experience irregular bleeding with the use of their current oral contraceptive.

The new anti-acne regimen and oral contraceptive is competitively priced and already available in selected drugstores nationwide.

MENZI RECEIVES GOLD QUILL AWARD

The first Gold Quill Philippines Awards (GQPA), organized by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), recently honored the Menzi Trust Fund for the book about the life of Hans Menzi 'From Earth to Sky: The Life and Times of Hans Menzi.' Shown is lawyer Manuel G. Montecillo (left), trustee and treasurer of the Menzi Trust Fund, and Maria Teresa Custodio (second from left), project director of the Menzi biography, receiving the Gold Quill award for excellence (communication skills category-publications division) from Bish Mukherjee, IABC/Australia NSW president, Rolando Estabillo, VP for corporate communications, PAL, and Gretchen O. Recto, chair of the Gold Quill Awards, member of the board of judges of the GQPA. GQPA aims to honor the achievement of outstanding professional communicators in the country.

Printech Manila 2002 at the PTTC

PRINTECH Manila 2002, an exhibition on everything about printing, will be featuring the famous digital-controlled Roland R200 four-color offset press.

Printech will be held from March 14-17 at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC). Printech will also feature binding equipment (stitchers, perfect binding, book/smythe sewers, folding machines, cutters), pre-press systems (Macintosh, Adobe, Fuji, scanners, proofers, image setters), large-format printers (Mutoh, Epson, Roland, Encad, Soljet, Kodak), desktop printing, office reproduction systems, digital duplicators (Duplo and Riso), digital quality control devices, pressroom materials and chemicals, plus hundreds of other printing equipment, supplies, systems, and services.

Seminars on various printing topics from printing management, technical offset, silkscreen, large-format printing, and Adobe software will also be offered during the four-day exhibition.

Printech is sponsored by the Philippine Printing Technical Foundation (PPTF) and Screenprinting and Imaging Graphic Association of the Philippines (Sigap). It is supported by the Philippine Graphic Arts Dealer Association Inc. (Philgada) and the First Association of Self Adhesive Label Industry of the Philippines (Fasalip).

PORSCHE FOR RED CROSS BEAUTIES

Porsche Jeans proudly supports the search for Millennium Miss Red Cross 2001. The candidates casual wear was provided by Network Fashion, makers of Porsche Jeans for men and women and Jeano Jeans for kids.

AHMC OB-GYNE DEPARTMENT ALL READY

The top caliber team from the obstetrics and gynecology department of the soon-to-open Asian Hospital and Medical Center is shown all set and ready. The department is staffed with 92 specialists who are all diplomates and with credentials delineated with clinical privileges. Obstetric and gynecological services in this medical center will focus on quality patient health care that is cognizant of the role of the family in the promotion of maternal and child health. Clinical practice guidelines in the different subspecialties will serve as the standard of patient management. The team consists of (from left) Dr. Blanca de Guia, chief of the reproductive endocrinology section; Dr. Ed Simon, OB anesthesiologist; Fatima Hornilla, patient care services manager; Dr. Martin Manahan, department vice chair; Dr. Mila Torres, executive assistant to the chair and chief of the maternal-fetal medicine section; Dr. Vicente Poblete, department chair; Dr. Eileen Manalo, training coordinator; Dr. Ramon Reyles, chief of the OB-gyn ultrasound section, and Dr. Cecilia Llave, chief of the OB-gyn oncology section.

JUSTICE INAUGURATES ARELLANO LIBRARY

The Arellano University School of Law recently inaugurated its new library located at the school's main hall, with Tofil awardee Associate Justice Jose C. Vitug as guest of honor. Assisting Vitug in cutting the ceremonial ribbon are, from left, Rep. Antonio B. Nachura, chair of the Arellano Law Foundation; Florentino S. Cayco III, director for administration and personnel; law school dean Mariano F. Magsalin, Jr.; Maria Paz A. Magsalin; and Francisco P. Cayco, president of Arellano University. Vitug, former dean of the law school, was conferred the first Gawad Arellano given to distinguished faculty and alumni of the law school.

BITS & Clips

Cardinal Vidal, Sec. Reyes feted

TWO DISTINGUISHED personalities will be honored today, Feb. 23, during the annual Rotary World Peace and Understanding Day. The event, which will be attended by all clubs in Rotary District 3830 under the leadership of governor Ernie Salas, will also highlight this year's Rotary Peace Awards. Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal and Defense Secretary Angelo Tomas Reyes are this year's Rotary Peace awardees. The World Peace and Understanding Day is Rotary's yearly celebration and serves to highlight and recognize all the selfless and exemplary acts of the awardees who bring hope and encouragement of peace, understanding and harmony to their respective communities. Past Rotary Peace Awardees include Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos and Jaime Cardinal Sin. Like the past years' celebrations, this year's Rotary Peace Awards will be held at the Makati Park and Garden, where the Rotary Peace Monument is located. Program starts at 5 p.m.

Faber-Castell's free art workshops

FABER-CASTELL, the brand for quality art materials produced since 1761, has continuously sponsored for the past two years free art activities for elementary pupils in various schools, hotels, art centers, museums and malls in Metro Manila. Workshops and performances are once more scheduled on Feb. 23. The art session focusing on "Seascape" will be facilitated by Fernando Sena, while the lecture and musical performances will be conducted by Wed Lodriga, award-winning artist and fine arts instructor at St. Scholastica's College. Schools interested in hosting free art workshops for their elementary pupils may call the marketing department of Faber-Castell at 361-7391 to 92. All Faber-Castell art materials are available at all branches of National Bookstore, all stationery sections of SM Department Stores, and leading bookstores.

Seminar for Canada-bound Pinoys

AFTER THREE years of helping Filipinos work and live in Canada, Mentor Consultants Canada will hold its first major seminar "Tayo na sa Canada!" this March 1 and 2 at the second floor, Century Function Room of the Millennium Plaza Hotel in Makati Avenue corner Eduque Street, Makati City. Canadian Allison Manis, a former consul and now a liaison officer for the Canadian Embassy, tackles the topic on why Canada has become known as a nation of immigrants and voted by the United Nations as the best country to live in. She also discusses what it takes to be a Canadian and the benefits of being a Canadian. Other topics include discussions on the Live-In Caregiver being a gateway for a working visa, and tips on how to be an immigrant and how to get settled in Canada. For inquiries and reservations, call Mentor Consultants Canada at 895-9514 or 895-9643, or e-mail mentor@philonline.com.

SMC alumni homecoming

ST. MARY'S College (SMC) Alumni Foundation president Fe Silica Arellano announced the alumni homecoming of SMC in its Quezon City Campus from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. today, Feb. 23. The theme for the year is "Ang Sarap Mag-Connect". Graduates of batch 1977 are the silver jubilarians this year. The program starts with a Thanksgiving Mass, followed by an Entrepreneur Fair of Marian businesswomen and registration. The program proper starts at 3. Former Lipa mayor Vilma Santos-Recto, alumna of SMC-Yakal, gives the inspirational talk. The affair will be capped by music and dancing at 7 p.m. in the school gym. Raffle prizes will be given away the whole day. For more information, call Agnes Bengco at 427-2771 or 0917-5305170.

Max's RESTAURANT
ntract Signi

MAX'S-ATI AGREEMENT FORGED

Max's Franchising Inc. (MFI) has recently signed a franchising contract with All Tasty Inc (ATI), owner of the soon-to-open Max's Restaurant in Pulilan, Bulacan. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Alex Alcasan, ATI stockholder; Antonio San Luis, ATI managing director; Jim Fuentebella and Robert Ocampo, MFI's president and chief operating officer, respectively. Max's Pulilan is expected to be operational in May. For information on franchising, call MFI at 832-199 loc. 145 and look for Gretchen Sibayan, or visit www.maxsfranchise.com or www.maxschicken.com.

CLUB
9th FUN DAY CELEBRATION
KRAFT

LI'L HANDS CLUB FUN DAY

Shown are the kids who joined the balloon sculpture conducted by Amspec, makers of Crayola crayons, Mongol pencils, and Li'l Hands arts and crafts products, in cooperation with Jollibee Kiddie Workshop. Recycled art workshops created a paper pillow, a paper puppet, an origami card, a Christmas card, and fun art with mugs. Other fun-filled, exciting, and thrilling programs immediately followed, such as parlor games, raffles, special numbers, and the giving of goodie bags to all members. The next fun day is the 4th Li'l Hands Club Anniversary on Feb. 23, at the new Activity Center of the Alabang Town Center. Art enthusiasts 15 years old and below would love joining the Li'l Hands Club. With 16,000 members and growing , the Li'l Hands Club offers various activities and events designed to stimulate kids' artistic minds—and they're all 100-percent fun. Call 850-4046, 807-9269, 842-1515, 568-5868, or e-mail club@lilhands.com for more details.

AKE VILLA RESORT
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JUSTICE
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JUSTICE AT JAYCEES INDUCTION

The Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez was the guest of honor and speaker during the second induction and turnover ceremonies of the Angono 'Ace' Jaycees held at the Lake Villa Resort in Binangonan, Rizal recently. With Martinez are immediate past president JC Cyrus T. Sualog (left) and 2002 president JC Melani Mendiola-Cancio. Seated at the back is national executive vice president for the Metro area JC Jaygee Puzon.

NSP seminar at 4th year

IN CELEBRATION of its fourth successful year in the direct selling industry, Nu Skin Philippines (NSP) will mount its "Go 4 Blue" Anniversary Success Seminar on Feb. 23 at the Ballroom I and II of the New World Hotel in Makati City. NSP enjoins everyone engaged in the Nu Skin business to attend this grand event, which paves the way for wider opportunities and bigger dreams. Be inspired by the messages of NSP's top corporate speakers and be among the first to view Nu Skin's new exciting product offerings. For further information of the Nu Skin "Go 4 Blue" Anniversary Success Seminar, call Nu Skin at 689-0333, or visit www.nuskin.com.ph.

How Rotary supports polio eradication

By Rafael G. Hechanova
Contributor

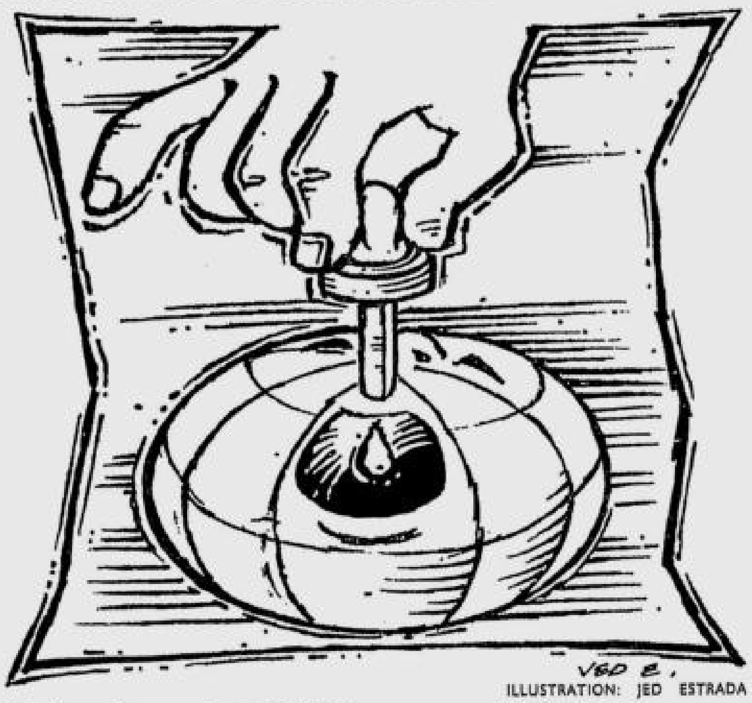


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

DURING THE FIRST half of the 20th century, poliomyelitis paralyzed half a million people a year. Today, the disease is on the verge of eradication.

The war against polio has been waged on many fronts for decades. It was a battle fought with two tiny drops of vaccine, sophisticated technology and an army of dedicated volunteers who help scientists track down an elusive foe.

The struggle to achieve global polio eradication is itself a public health story of epic preparations.

Rotary International is the volunteer arm of a global partnership dedicated to eradicating polio. Its partners include the World Health Organization, Unicef and the US Centers for Disease Control.

The Rotary helped eradicate polio in the WHO Western Pacific Region by initiating the mass polio immunization program in the Philippines in 1979-1980. Then Rotary International president James L. Bomar was in the country to launch the Rotary's first Health Hunger and Humanity Program for a mass immunization against polio. As a district governor then, I was asked to secure the approval and support of the health secretary. Through representations made to then President Ferdinand Marcos and the First Lady, then Health Secretary Enrique Garcia approved the joint effort.

Since then the Rotary—led by former president M.A.T. Caparas, former directors Francisco Delgado, Sabino Santos and I and a country committee headed by Oscar de Venecia—worked with the Department of Health under various administrations to pursue the mass immunization campaign against polio.

Fund-raising

Worldwide, Rotary members are leading the charge by committing up to 2005 nearly half a billion dollars in private funds to provide polio vaccine, technical support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment and educational materials for health workers and parents.

Of even greater significance, Rotary members offer their compassion, time and expertise. During national immunization days (NIDs), Rotarians volunteer in immunization posts, deliver vaccine, transport health workers and recruit fellow volunteers.

The NID mass mobilization, referred to as "social mobilization," has involved election-style campaigns and innovative strategies to get the message to people who are cut off from the mainstream by conflict, geography or poverty. Rotarians prepare and distribute different mass communication tools, including posters, TV and radio spots, billboards, folk songs and promotional messages broadcast on floats, trucks and rickshaws.

The lengths to which they will go to get vaccine to children are heroic—traveling hundreds of kilometers on camel, by boat, by helicopter, on horses or on foot for days to reach every child.

Milestones

The last three years have been pivotal in advancing the polio eradication effort, culminating in several major milestones:

- Nearly two billion children have received oral polio vaccine (OPV) in the last 10 years and are successfully protected from poliomyelitis.
- Since Rotary began the Polio Plus program, the number of polio endemic countries has declined from over 125 in 1985 to 30 at the beginning of 2000.
- In 1998, 10 percent of the world's children lived in polio-free countries. As of January 2001, over 60 percent were living in polio-free countries.

Despite these encouraging developments, health officials warn that polio is still prevalent in Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, primarily in highly populated areas.

Final phase

As the polio eradication program enters the final and most difficult phase, there is a greater need for political will in light of a critical shortfall in funding. It is estimated that over $1 billion is needed from donors to eradicated polio. Approximately $600 million has already been pledged.

Recognizing the urgency of its advocacy role, trustees of the Rotary Foundation authorized the creation of a Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force. Its principal job is to coordinate efforts of Rotary members to convince national governments and other funding sources about the urgency, need and benefits of investing the necessary funds to meet the extraordinary cost of polio eradication.

The Foundation also recently entered an agreement with the United Nations Foundation, founded by Ted Turner, to help raise the funds needed to eradicate polio.

Rotary members are doing everything to ensure that polio does not make a comeback and derail the eradication goal.

The world stands firmly on the threshold of victory. What finer gift can we give to the next generation than a world without polio?

(Rafael Hechanova is a former Rotary International director and a current member of the Polio Plus speakers bureau and a major donor to the Rotary Foundation.)

The secrets of Pythagoras

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

FAMOUS for the triangle theorem named in his honor, Pythagoras of Samos was born in the island of, where else, Samos in the Aegean Sea in the 6th century B.C. and died in the town of Crotona in southern Italy.

When he was 18, he participated in the Olympic Games and won all the boxing tournaments. His great desire was traveling—to Ionia where he stayed with the mathematician Thales and his pupil Anaximander, to Syria where he studied with the Phoenician sages, to Mount Carmel in what today is Lebanon, to Egypt where he learned from the high priests for 20 years.

When Persia invaded Egypt, Pythagoras was taken prisoner to Babylon. He spent 12 years there, where he again learned from the scribes and sages. He returned to Samos 40 years later but since the tyrant Polycrates rule his home, Pythagoras left once again.

He went to Sybaris in southern Italy (famous for being a city of pleasure, hence the adjective "sybaritic"), and then to Crotona where he founded his "school"—the so-called Brotherhood, which lasted for 150 years. Its members included noted Pythagoreans such as the philosopher-mathematicians Hippocrates of Chios, Theodorus of Cyrene, Philolaus, Archytas of Tarentum and the unfortunate Hippasus.

Why unfortunate? Let us turn to the question posed by E.J.B. Pancho, who wrote the following letter.

Did Pythagoras organize and run a school called the Brotherhood? Did they really put to death a member who revealed their mathematical discoveries? Were there any unfortunate blabbermouths?

I also read that one of their secrets was the steps in drawing a regular pentagon. Is this secret still classified? If not, how can I construct this shape using only a straightedge and a compass? I have not yet been successful. Thanks.

You are right about the Brotherhood, and yes, many sources say (though no written records from this era survive) that the society practiced both secrecy and communalism. However, summaries in Aristotle's "Metaphysics" and fragments of the book of Philolaus in the late 5th century B.C. provide a glimpse of the beliefs of the Brotherhood.

For instance, Pythagoreans believed that the soul is immortal and separable from the body and that it can be reincarnated in different animals until it completes the cycle of all creatures (transmigration of souls, which is a cornerstone of certain Hindu sects today). Thus, they practiced vegetarianism devoutly.

However, they are more known for their esoteric number practices and beliefs, many of which were indistinguishable from philosophy.

They named the basic principles of things as the Limit and the Unlimited, and insisted that the structure of the cosmos was based on fundamental musical ratios such as 4:3, 3:2 and 2:1. They observed that vibrating strings produced harmonious sounds when the ratios of the lengths were whole numbers, and they extended this observation to other instruments.

In astronomy, they measured the periodic numerical relations of heavenly bodies and deemed that "celestial spheres" of the planets can produce a harmony, called music of the spheres.

Admirably, they believed that the earth was spherical, that the sun, moon and planets had movements of their own, and that the earth revolved around a "heavenly fire."

They also linked odd and even numbers, in tables of opposites, with good and bad, male and female, and equated virtues with selected numbers.

As for the Pythagorean theorem, which states that the square of the hypotenuse of a right triangle is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides, it is widely believed that Pythagoras picked this up when he was in Babylonia. However, the Pythagoreans are credited for the first formal proof of this theorem.

So is there any truth to the rumors that the Brotherhood was a deadly sect? I have only come upon one instance to bolster that belief. When the Pythagoreans discovered the existence of irrational numbers (no fraction composed of integers could express these ratios exactly), the notion proved disturbing to the Brotherhood, because it ran counter to their view that the universe was expressible in whole numbers. It was said that when one of their members, Hippasus, insisted that they investigate this (other sources say that Hippasus talked—yes, blabbed about this), the members were so angry that they had him expelled. Some sources say he drowned under suspicious circumstances, but we can never be sure.

It is heartening to note that mathematicians cannot hide from the truth forever. Decades after, Greek mathematicians made significant advances in the theory of irrational numbers when they developed a method for finding progressive approximations to Ö2 (an irrational number) by using so-called diagonal numbers.

What is known though, is that the members did meet a violent end. The people of Crotona were suspicious of the Brotherhood because its members were aristocrats, whom they killed during a political uprising. Historians do not know whether Pythagoras escaped the uprising, or was killed then. The Brotherhood was finally destroyed in 400 B.C.

How about the Pythagorean method of constructing the pentagon? I have not come across any sources detailing their experiments here. In fact, it is now generally acknowledged that aside from the Pythagorean theorem, the Brotherhood cannot be credited with proofs in the Euclidean sense. They were more concerned with speculations on geometrical figures and with constructing the five regular solids. (Is this what you mean? The pentagon though is not a solid.) Most historians though credit such constructions to non-Pythagoreans of the 4th century.

Fast facts about tigers

LEARN more about tigers, the largest cats in the world, with some of the fascinating facts from the National Geographic Channel.

- Unlike lions, which are social animals and live in prides (families), tigers are solitary animals that only rarely meet except to mate.
- Tigers are very difficult to see in the wild, because they avoid human beings and live mostly in dense forest habitat. The best places in the world to see wild tigers in their natural habitat are Ranthambhore, Bandhavgarh and Kanha national parks in India and they have a thriving eco-tourism business as a result.
- If you shave the hair off a tiger, it will look exactly like a shaved lion; the stripes are only on its fur, not on the skin.
- No two tigers have the same stripes. The stripes are like fingerprints. That is how scientists recognize them.
- The further north you go the larger the stripes get. Siberians are the largest tigers. Sumatrans are the smallest.
- Unlike almost all other cat species, all tigers like water and are actually very good swimmers. They often spend many hours on hot days lounging on ponds, rivers and lakes.
- Tigers can sleep at least 16 hours a day, much like domestic cats.
- Tigers can eat 30 kg of meat in one meal and go a week or more without food; under ideal conditions they eat 4 to 7 kilos per day.

SCISCOPE

Unique nonmedical symposium

THE PHILIPPINE Heart Association recently held a unique nonmedical symposium titled "Other concerns of the heart" in cooperation with Servier Philippines, a leading French pharmaceutical firm. This year's topic focused on three critical social ills—the dysfunctional family, the damaged Philippine culture and the loss of religious values. Prominent pediatric cardiologist Dr. Asuncion Reloza, quoting from several studies, cited the extreme pressures of modern life, the need for both parents to work, the lack of intimacy with the family, and improper role models for the children as among the contributing factors toward dysfunctional families. Education Secretary Raul Roco cited "treachery" and selfishness as contributing toward the damaged culture, and called upon the "educated class" to forego its own personal interests and contribute toward nation-building. Bishop Soc Villegas called for the revival of "Katapatan," or truth, faith and faithfulness in Philippine society.

PCOM holds annual convention

SENATE President Franklin Drilon and Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas will keynote the annual convention of the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on Feb. 24-26. Sto. Tomas will also induct the new officers during the closing ceremonies. The PCOM is a special discipline of doctors who care for the health of workers in industries nationwide. The Father of Occupational Health in the Philippines, the late Dr. Gregorio Dizon, will be honored with a memorial lecture to be delivered by Dr. Benito Reverente, founding president of the Philippine Occupational and Industrial Medical Association.

The case of the dyslexic debater, a rejoinder

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

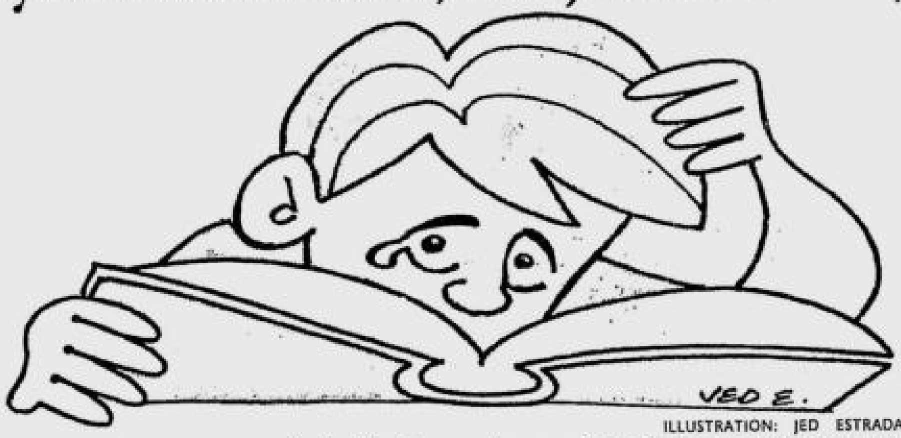


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

FROM TIME to time, we receive touching letters or e-mail messages from readers who identify themselves with the cases being discussed in this space. These letters and messages make our humble efforts in doing our research work and completing the article in time for the deadline a small price to pay. The gratifying feeling we get is immeasurable. We would like to print in full one such letter from Joseph Santos, who is now a successful database developer in Boston, Massachusetts. His is one great story of how to beat dyslexia.

Dear Doc Raffy,

Before I introduce myself, allow me to begin by thanking you for writing the article, (The case of the dyslexic debater) published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer (Jan. 19, 2002 issue). It was very insightful and enlightening. I do pray that my parents, who live in Manila, got the chance to read this well-written article.

Also dyslexic

My name is Joseph, and like Luke (in the article), I am dyslexic. I am so filled with emotion that I don't know where to start. Anyway, I now reside in Boston MA as a database developer. Dr. Castillo, it was a long and painful ride to get where I am today. You see, I grew up in Metro Manila in a very academically gifted household. Both my parents are extremely intelligent. My mother, if you ask me, is borderline genius and my father, I suspect, has a photographic memory. They are greatly responsible for pushing me and my two sisters to excel in our academic careers.

In grade school, both my sisters brought home academic awards like apples would drop on the orchard ground. They were performers in school. As for myself, I brought home academic warnings in Reading and Phonics and Math consistently. My parents couldn't understand why my grades were all across the board. It ran in a spectrum from A to C- and sometimes D. I was fortunate enough not to be a recipient of a failing mark. This pattern continued through high school. Both my sisters were in honor classes in their grade school and high school careers. I, on the other hand, never made it to such an esteem niche. Dr. Castillo, I heard it all. Lazy, stupid, *tunganga, batugan, bobo* and mediocre were examples of the labels that accompanied me as I grew into adolescence.

Value for education

With the combination of my parents' love for us and their value for education, they sent me and my 2 siblings here in Boston to take our undergrad (courses). This was the point in my life when things started to change. In one of my Psychology classes, we studied the different LDs (learning disabilities). I came across dyslexia and its symptoms. I was taken aback when I found the book describe me. Up to this point, I never understood why I needed to use a ruler to read through books or why letters appear to jump around. I became voracious for information regarding this LD. I spent hours in the library going through books, magazines, medical publications and some online BBS systems (This was the early '90s. It was just the dawn of the Internet age).

It was not an overnight fix. I developed habits and coping mechanisms through my university career. After being armed with the knowledge of what I have, I started to force myself to read my academic materials more than the average student would. I used different software tools to create alternative notes and review materials. With much blood and sweat, I am proud to say that I graduated in the top 10 of the graduating class of 1997 in my school with 4 honor society memberships, a departmental plaque and summa cum laude under my belt. It was my crowning glory Dr. Castillo. I beat dyslexia.

That was 4 years ago. As I previously mentioned, I am now a database developer. In layman's terms, I predominantly do programming. Last year, something caught up with me. When I started to dive in the more technical part of the database industry, problems with comprehension also came about. I was fearful that dyslexia got the best of me. So, I turned to a psychiatrist who specialized in learning disorders for help and true enough something was up. Aside from being dyslexic, I was also diagnosed with ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder). I was floored upon learning this. I was 26 years old with a child's disorder. The diagnosis pointed out that I've had this as a child and was never treated.

Support structure

Dr. Castillo my battle continues. I've already confronted my parents about dyslexia some time last year. To my surprise, it was the first time that they've heard of the term. Of course their reception to this news was less than profound. I felt that the anecdote "Please pass the salt...and oh, I have dyslexia..." was very appropriate to that incident. We never talked about it since then. Now, I do not have the desire to tell them about ADD as I feel that I already know how that story will end. My sisters on the other hand are more sympathetic to my condition. My older sister, through college, helped research and proofread my papers. My younger sister was there for moral support. I think I can live with this support structure.

Because of what I've been through, I have this drive to promote early detection in the Philippines. It's almost a compulsion. I will be going back home some time mid this year and will set an appointment with the guidance center of my former grade school. It's not really a crusade but more of an FYI session. I don't know how far that will lead me but it's definitely a start.

By the way, you might be interested to know that I outperformed my siblings in one particular class in college. It was Public Speaking. I blew by that class.

Thank you for your time and for writing the article.

Thank you...God Bless....

Joseph Santos

Often gifted people

Dyslexics have difficulty mentally processing words and sounds but most of them have above-average or even superior intelligence as in Luke's and Joseph's cases. Dyslexics are often gifted people who may even become overachievers in their chosen field of profession, so long as they don't allow this learning disability get the better of them.

The impressive list of dyslexics is reported to include physicist Albert Einstein, statesmen Winston Churchill and King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, artists Leonardo da Vinci, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol, thespians Whoopi Goldberg and Tom Cruise, writers Agatha Cristie and W. B. Yeats, and boxing champ Muhammad Ali. In my list, I have also included Luke B and Joseph Santos.

Individuals with learning or other handicaps can always go both ways. They can wallow in self-pity cursing fate, their family and society for consigning them to a life of misery, most of which is self-inflicted; or, they can go over and beyond their infirmity and show one and all that despite their handicap, they can transform their physical and mental limitations into challenges that motivate them to make the best of themselves and accomplish goals which normal people may consider unachievable.

People like Luke and Joseph can certainly make our day...any day of the week.

(For feedback, e-mail raffymd@i-manila com.ph.)

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Cesar D. Mangawang, Editor ■ Stella O. Gonzales, Assistant Editor

Osteoarthritis not just for old people

By Charles E. Buban

You survived puberty and enjoyed three decades of effortless health. Now things are getting tricky as age remodels everything in your body—from wrinkling skin to frail bones.

One of the things associated with aging is the growing incidence of osteoarthritis. Accordingly, people have assumed that cartilage, the tissue involved in the joint disorder, just wore out over time, just like a tire.

"Osteoarthritis is a condition where the joints—not muscle, tendon, ligament or bone—are affected by degeneration. The 'itis' means the joints are red, hot, swollen and painful," explains Dr. Gary Sy, medical director at Life Extension Medical Center.

"It may begin at a very young age, so do not think it means that you are 'over the hill.' Osteoarthritis has been found among teenagers," he says.

The most common factors implicated in osteoarthritis are genetic predisposition, obesity and trauma.

The cartilage doesn't have a nerve supply and considerable deterioration may already have occurred before one starts to feel the pain.

Most researchers today view osteoarthritis as a degenerative process that can be triggered by an injury and worsened by overuse.

But exercise is not going to cause it. In fact, Sy said, it could even be useful in alleviating pain.

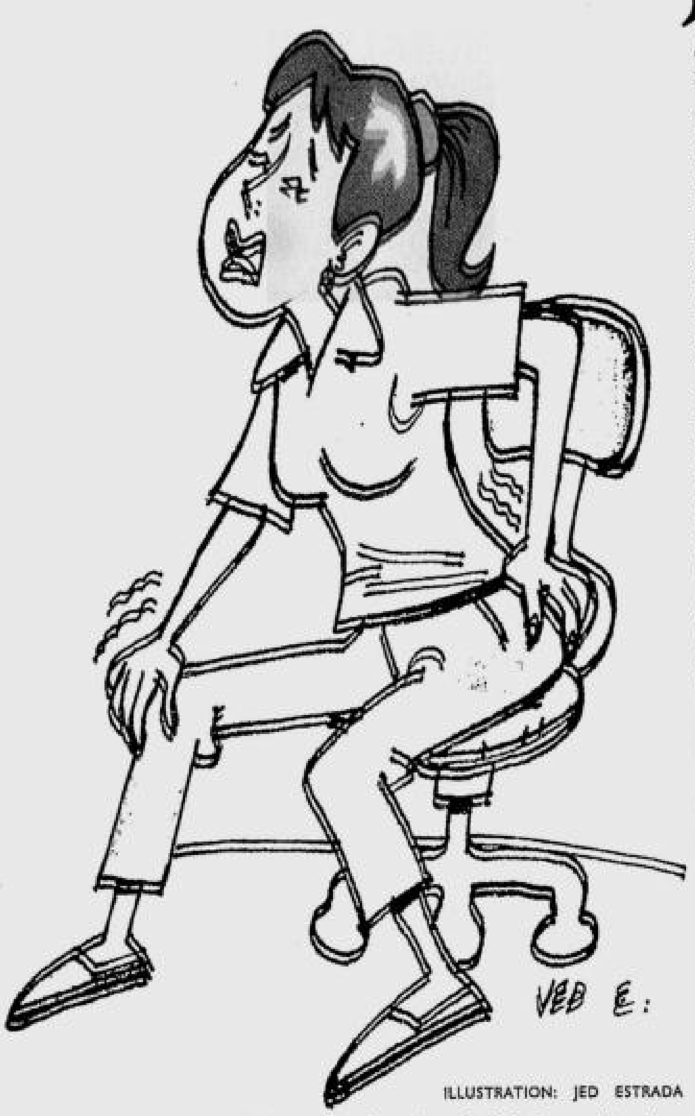


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Exercise is vital

Exercise strengthens the muscle support around the joints. It also prevents the joints from "freezing up" and improves and maintains joint mobility. It also helps reduce one's weight and relieve pain and inflammation. By strengthening muscles, exercise stabilizes the weight-bearing joints, reducing the risk of cartilage-damaging twists.

Several studies have shown that yoga can reduce osteoarthritis pain as well.

"Listen to your body. If you find that exercise is aggravating the problem, you must resort to another activity like walking, stationary cycling or other light weight training," says Sy.

Swimming is particularly suitable for osteoarthritis sufferers because of its minimal impact on the joints.

Exercise tips

Before doing any workout, Sy suggests warming up first.

"You cannot just go straight to your routine, otherwise you risk injury. Warming up...prepares the body and mind for more strenuous activity," says the doctor.

For older individuals, Sy suggests several light aerobics and stretching exercises that can be accomplished while sitting on a, firm, armless straight-backed chair.

Don't push too hard, the doctor advises. These routines should be done in gradual fashion with a slow increasing frequency.

Neck bend. Look straight ahead. Bend your head to the left without lifting the shoulder then lift your head back up to the center. Do the same toward the right and repeat the procedure.

Neck turn. Turn your head to the left until you are looking over your left shoulder. Turn back to the center then turn to the right and repeat the procedure. Keep your head straight.

Neck/spine stretch. Sit up straight with your shoulders pulled back. Tilt your chin up as if a string is being pulled on top of your head.

Shoulder lift. Lift your shoulders up while keeping both arms at rest on your sides.

Forward arm lift. Start with both arms rested on your sides, thumbs pointed away from the body. Lift your arms to the level of your ears.

Hands behind the back. Place both hands behind your head and move your elbows backward. Place both hands behind your lower back with fists closed and thumbs pointing up. Move it up and down.

Outward arms lift. Start with both hands relaxed at the sides, palms facing down. Lift your arms to the level of your shoulders with palms facing up. Lift your arms until they are above the head. Return both arms to the level of the shoulder, this time palms facing down, then bring the arms to the sides.

Elbow bend. Start with both arms at rest at the sides. Bend your elbows until your fingers touch your shoulders. Then slowly bring them down to your sides.

Elbow roll. Bend your elbows forward at about 90 degrees. Close your fists and point your thumbs upward. Roll your fists sideward so your thumbs point outward, then slowly bring them inward until both thumbs point toward each other.

Wrist rotation. Keep your left elbow tucked at your side, angled at 90 degrees. Hold the forearm with your right hand to keep it from moving. Using just your fist, rotate your hand counterclockwise, then reverse. Repeat the same procedure with the other wrist.

Wrist bend. Keep your left elbow tucked to your side, angled at 90 degrees. With palm facing down, bend your wrist up and down. Keep other parts of the forearm from moving.

Finger curl. Keeping your knuckles straight, gently curl your fingers then stretch them back straight.

Loosening fist. Start with your fingers extended. Gently curl them inward but not too tightly closed. Open them then repeat the procedure.

Finger touch. With your thumb, touch the tip of each finger in your hand.

Thumb stretch. Spread your hands flat and extend your thumb sideways as far as you can. Return to the relaxed position and repeat the procedure.

Finger slide. With your hands flat on a surface (fingers together), start by sliding your thumb sideways away from the rest of the fingers. Then slide each finger toward the thumb until all your fingers have moved. Be sure to keep your palm from moving. Relax and repeat the procedure.

Ankle bend and stretch. With your legs at their most comfortable position, extend your toes down as far as possible then move them until they're pointed up.

Hip bend. With your hands resting on your lap and your back straight, lift your left knee to the level of your chest. Then lower the leg and put your foot on the floor. Do the same to the other leg.

Knee stretch. Lift your left foot as high as your knee until it forms a straight line. Keep your toes pointed up. Return to the previous position and this time, bend your knee back until your foot is under the chair. Repeat the same procedure with the other knee.

Ankle circle. Raise your legs straight until they're almost perpendicular to your body. Keeping the rest of the legs still, move your ankles in a circular motion (clockwise then reverse).

How to know if you have osteoarthritis

OSTEOARTHRITIS is more likely to affect your hips or knees and the end joints on your fingers, but it can affect any joint.

How will you know if you have osteoarthritis?

Telltale signs could be episodes of pain, swelling and stiffness in the affected joints that occur at intervals of months or even years. The major symptom is pain in and around the joints.

"There could be presence of a gritty feeling (or even noise) when the joint is moved (this is called crepitus) and the joints become visibly knobbly," describes geriatric and sports medicine specialist Dr. Gary Sy, medical director of Life Extension Medical Center.

The tissue affected by osteoarthritis is the articular cartilage, a firm rubbery protein material covering the end of a bone. It acts as a cushion or shock absorber between the bones. When the articular cartilage breaks down, this cushion is lost, and the bones grind against each other.

Pain

"There is pain because pressure is placed on the nerve endings. Sometimes the pain gets worse and the joint becomes swollen. Even though this is usually short-lived, you should see your doctor," suggests Sy.

An X-ray can detect a damaged joint but this is only one of the procedures in diagnosing osteoarthritis.

Says Sy, "The history of your symptoms and the findings in your physical examination will be valuable factors in diagnosis. For example, when weight-bearing joints such as those in the hips, knees and ankles are involved, it is important for overweight patients to loose weight because this puts extra strain on the joints."

No cure

Sadly, there is no cure for osteoarthritis.

The goal of therapy is to control the disease and possibly slow its progress by keeping the affected joints mobile. Treatment is aimed mainly at symptom relief. Simple painkillers and anti-inflammatory drugs are used and physiotherapy may help strengthen muscles that stabilize and protect the affected joint.

Surgery may help when all other treatments have failed to bring relief.

Surgical options include arthroscopic surgery, osteotomy, arthrodesis and arthroplasty. *Charles E. Buban*

Is this the answer to osteoarthritis?

By Tessa R. Salazar

NATUROPATHIC physicians—doctors who look to nature for cures to diseases—view osteoarthritis as "reversible, preventable and avoidable."

Studies from the field of natural medicine show that the treatment of osteoarthritis should go beyond temporary relief. It should be a complete treatment ranging from nutritional and diet change to lifestyle modification.

Dr. Omar G. Arabia II, who practices biological medicine, nutritional oncology, complementary therapies and naturopathy, said people should tap nature to help fight the disease.

From a naturopathic point of view, osteoarthritis is not only a result of heredity, obesity, injury or overuse of certain joints but also the result of a toxic lifestyle and diet.

Some believe that antioxidants can protect a person against osteoarthritis. Results from the Framingham Osteoarthritis Cohor Study indicate that a high intake of antioxidant nutrients, especially Vitamin C, may reduce the risk of cartilage loss and inhibit the progression of the disease.

Vitamin E is believed to stimulate the formation of new cartilage components. Vitamins A and B6, zinc, copper and boron are said to be essential for the manufacture and maintenance of normal cartilage. Glucosamine sulfate is also needed.

Physical therapy

Lifestyle support therapy, a term unfamiliar to most but household words to those practising naturopathy, involves massage, acupuncture, hot and cold hydrotherapy, epsom salt baths and chiropractic treatments.

Sunbathing is necessary for absorption of Vitamin D.

Physical therapy treatments include closely supervised exercise, heat, cold, diathermy and ultrasound. These activities, if done regularly, are said to help improve joint mobility and reduce the pain of osteoarthritis.

Walking programs are suggested to help relieve pain for patients with osteoarthritis of the knee.

Arabia suggested patient's should undergo lymphatic therapy to detoxify the body. This process clears the lymph flow. As people grow old or become less physically active, the flow of lymph fluid is impaired.

Muscle tension from chronic stress can further promote the accumulation of toxins.

Diet

A change in diet is the first step in treating osteoarthritis.

In her book "Healthy Healing," naturopathic physician Linda Page suggested a low-fat, mostly vegetarian diet. She advised against eating "trigger" foods like corn, wheat, bacon, pork, beef, eggs, coffee, oats and milk. One must cut down on alcohol, fried foods, dairy foods, black tea and salty and spicy foods.

· The Encyclopedia of Natural Medicine said complex carbohydrates, high-fiber foods should be encouraged and fats kept to a minimum.

Other foods that must be avoided are plants of the nightshade family such as potatoes, eggplants, pepper and tobacco.

One must add "balancing" foods such as green tea, artichokes, cherries, cabbages, brown rice, oats, cold water fish, sea greens, fresh fruits, leafy greens, garlic, onions, olive oil, sweet potatoes, squashes, ginger and parsley.

"If the metabolism, digestive system and lifestyle are closely supervised, an osteoarthritis sufferer will see a reversal of his condition," said Arabia.

In their book "Better Health through Natural Healing," Doctors Ross Trattler and Adrian Jones said subtle dietary changes are rarely successful in reversing the problem. A "more heroic" therapy is required.

One "extreme" diet is fasting on raw vegetable juice and raw noncitrus vegetables accompanied with a good nutritional supplement program. Stimulants such as coffee, tea, alcohol, nicotine or sweets are forbidden.

These courses of action need medical supervision.

TOTAL KNEE REPLACEMENT

Closest thing to being 'bionic'

By Jose S. Pujalte Jr., MD
Contributor

WHAT'S a total knee replacement?

Joint replacement is one of the most successful orthopedic operations performed worldwide. In the United States, nearly 140,000 knee replacements are done annually.

The implants consist of a metal block covering the end of a diseased thighbone (femur), a plastic tray or plastic-on-metal combination for the leg bone (tibia) and a plastic button for the knee cap (patella).

Who gets knee replacements?

The most common indication for total knee replacement is osteoarthritis, or degenerative joint disease. The end stage of osteoarthritis is the wearing out of the cartilage (smooth, gliding bone ends) resulting in bone-to-bone contact in diseased joints.

Osteoarthritis is common after the age of 65. It is progressive and becomes increasingly painful as the cartilage erodes.

Younger people who get knee replacements had damaged joints through trauma, infection, cancer or tumor, and inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis.

Who may not get knee replacements?

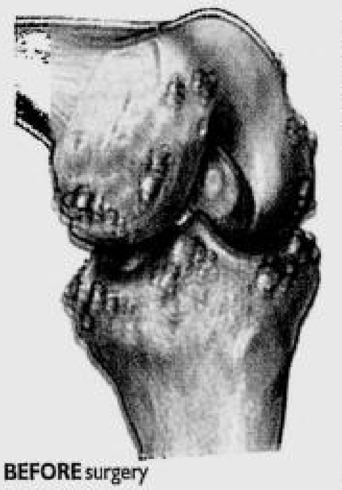
Patients with recent or active knee infections.

If the patient's knee is so weakened that it cannot be straightened from a bent position, the doctor will not think of replacement.

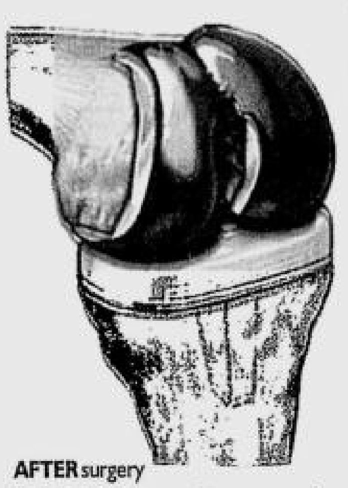
Why do doctors suggest total knee replacement?

There are three reasons an orthopedic surgeon will recommend an artificial knee: to relieve pain, to restore function and to achieve stability.

As the arthritic knee becomes more painful, the patient will use it less. Function is thus lost. As the arthritic knee continues to deform, the patient will feel that the joint is wobbly or unstable.



BEFORE surgery



AFTER surgery

For those too scared to get an operation, is there an alternative to surgery?

If arthritis is seen early (before joint damage is severe), the doctor may recommend rest, the use of knee supports and the use of walking aids such as canes and walkers. He may suggest physical therapy and other appropriate exercises.

Occasionally, steroid injections into the knee may decrease pain and inflammation.

A variety of drugs for arthritis exist. These range from painkillers (aspir'n, acetaminophen and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as diclofenac, meloxicam, piroxicam, mefenamic acid, ibuprofen) to the latest COX-2 inhibitors (rofecoxib and celecoxib).

A food supplement, glucosamine sulfate, has been shown to delay the cartilage loss.

The latest treatment for knee osteoarthritis is sodium hyaluronate from chicken combs. It is injected into the joint as a lubricant and shock absorber, thereby relieving pain.

If conservative measures don't work and a patient still doesn't want a replacement, what else can doctors offer?

Again, depending on the stage of osteoarthritis and the age of the patient, there are other surgical procedures besides prosthetic replacement. Early arthritis may benefit from an arthroscopic washout—fluid is pumped into and out of the knee joint through tubes that are monitored by fiber optic video camera (arthroscopy).

Surgeries include synovectomy (removing bulky tissues that add to pain), osteotomy (realigning the joint) and athrodesis (fusing the joint).

How long does a knee replacement operation last?

The average operation time for each knee is two hours.

Are there risks involved?

As in all surgeries, there can be mishaps in technique and anesthesia. After the operation, there can be wound infection and worse, infection of the knee replacement. These may require prolonged use of antibiotics and possible removal of the implants.

The "textbook infection rate" for knee replacements is less than 2 percent.

A patient must be informed of possible complications but in the end, knee replacement, or any kind of surgery, is about trusting your doctor.

Can the patient walk immediately after surgery?

In noncomplicated cases, the patient is allowed to walk as early as three days after surgery with the aid of a walker and under the supervision of a physical therapist or rehabilitation medicine doctor. He stays in the hospital for five to seven days.

Usually, after six weeks the patient can walk without the aid of a walker. (If both knees are operated on, it can take up to three months.) Some patients graduate from a walker to a cane before walking without any aid. Some prefer using a cane forever, having gotten used to it.

Those who walk on their own are expected to do so slowly before eventually normalizing their pace.

People who have total knee replacement can no longer do strenuous activities that may damage the implant. Running is definitely out. Sports are severely limited to walking, golf, swimming, ballroom dancing and the like.

Will there still be pain in the knees after surgery?

The pain a patient experiences after surgery is due to the operative wound and usually disappears in two to three weeks. There is no more arthritic pain.

How long does knee replacement last?

A well-executed total knee replacement can last up to 15 years (95 percent predicted survival of the implant).

Is total knee replacement done in the Philippines?

Yes. The Philippine Orthopedic Association, a professional organization of Filipino orthopedic surgeons, has 386 registered fellows. They can do joint replacement. Total knee replacement has been done in the country since the 1980s.

(Dr. Pujalte is an orthopedic surgeon at the Philippine Orthopedic Center. For inquiries call 711-4276 and 711-6626, e-mail: JSPujalte@broline.com.)

SATURDAY*Special*

Editor **Nestor U. Torre** • *Associate Editor* **Edmund L. Sicam**

Denzel, Britney starrers top US box office

By Dean Goodman

LOS ANGELES—Academy Award nominee Denzel Washington and pop princess Britney Spears formed an unlikely first couple at the US box office during the US Presidents Day holiday weekend.

Studio estimates

According to studio estimates issued on Monday, Washington's emergency-room hostage drama "John Q." (New Line) opened at No. 1 with $24.1 million for the four days beginning Feb. 15, a record for a Presidents Day release. The old mark was held by the Adam Sandler comedy "The Wedding Singer," which opened at No. 2 in 1998 with $21.9 million. The long-running "Titanic" was still No. 1 that weekend.

Spears' feature debut "Crossroads" (Paramount) bowed at No. 2 with $17 million, as young girls around the country rushed to see their wholesome idol lose her virginity to a "bad boy."

WASHINGTON AND SPEARS. Their films earned $24.1M and $17M respectively.

Three other new releases took advantage of the long weekend: the Peter Pan cartoon "Return to Never Land" (Walt Disney) opened at No. 3 with $16.1 million; the Bruce Willis World War II prison camp drama "Hart's War" (MGM) at No. 7 with $9 million; and the low-budget cop comedy "Super Troopers" (Fox Searchlight) at No. 9 with $7.3 million.

Second weekend

Incumbent box office champion "Collateral Damage" (Warner Bros.), starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, fell to No. 5 with $9.9 million in its second weekend. With $29.4 million in the bag after two weekends, the studio modestly hopes the terrorist thriller will end up with more than $40 million.

Separately, Warner Bros. said "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" has become the second-grossing movie worldwide of all time, surpassing "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace." The boy-wizard film, known as "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" in most countries outside the United States, has grossed $926.1 million, beating "Phantom Menace's $922.8 million mark. "Titanic" holds the record with $1.8 billion.

Two films in the top 10 secured Academy Award nominations last Tuesday. The Russell Crowe drama "A Beautiful Mind" (Universal), which picked up eight nods, rose one spot to No. 6 with $9.7 million and a 60-day total of $126 million.

The Somalia war drama "Black Hawk Down" (Columbia), which received four nominations, fell four places to No. 8 with $7.4 million, perhaps hobbled by its omission from the best picture race. Its 53-day total rose to $96.6 million.

62-day total

The leading Oscar nominee, "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" (New Line), which picked up 13 Oscar nominations, held steady at No. 11 with $6 million. Its 62-day total rose to $279 million.

Washington, 47, who scored his fifth Academy Award nomination last week for his role as a corrupt cop in "Training Day," saw the publicity boost his latest film, "John Q." He plays a distraught father who takes an emergency room hostage in order to help save his desperately ill son.

Critics lambasted the movie, which takes potshots at the US healthcare system, but female viewers especially warmed to its message.

Not surprisingly, young females comprised 80 percent of the audience for Spears' "Crossroads," in which the 20-year-old pop starlet plays a high school valedictorian who embarks on a road trip, loses her virginity and becomes a pop star.

DENZEL/ p.C2

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Let's face it. Most of us spend a substantial part of our waking hours on a computer. And why not? Computers make our life and work easy. But too much of anything, as the saying goes, can be bad.

Indeed, for all the wonderful benefits of computers, 70-75% of people who work and play everyday in front of their computer screens are now suffering from a condition called *Computer Vision Syndrome (CVS)* or, in layman's term -- "computer eyes."

How do you know you have it? Simple. All you need to do is answer these questions.

☐ Do your eyes feel tired after a few hours in front of the computer?
☐ Is headache a daily occurence?
☐ Do your eyes feel dry?
☐ Do you find it difficult to change focus?
☐ Are your eyes always red?
☐ Do you observe a persistent contact lens discomfort?
☐ Are you overly sensitive to glare?

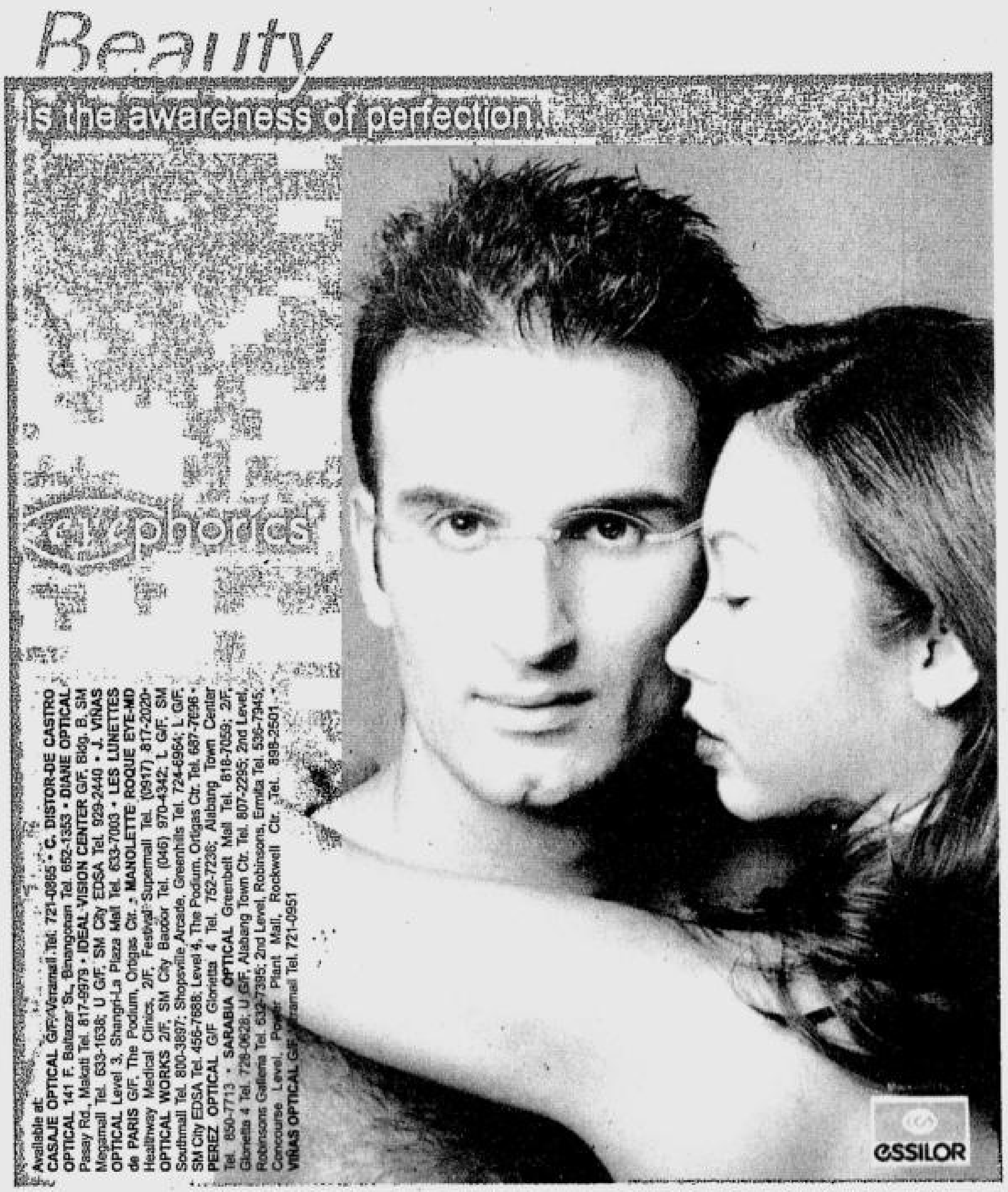
If you answered "yes" to any of the questions, yes - you have computer eyes. But don't worry.

Below is a list of things you can do to ease your suffering.

- Lower your computer screen so that its center is 4-8 inches below your eyes.
- If you are seated near an air vent, try to eliminate the flow of air past your eyes.
- Every once in a while close your eyes and roll them behind your closed eyelids.
- Take an occasional 2-minute break by looking into the distance; and concentrate on blinking.
- Make sure that bright overhead lights or bright windows are not in your field of view when looking at your computer screen.
- Adjust your computer screen contrast to maximize character definition.
- Use artificial tears such as Eye-Mo Revitalizing Formula to lubricate your eyes. Eye-Mo's HPMC (Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose) formula gently soothes the eyes - just like tears.

These are tried and tested solutions to computer-strained eyes. Follow them and you may never have to pay for the convenience of computers with your eyesight.

Reference:
1. "Computer Eye Strain: There is Hope", Dr. M. Grossman; http://www.visionworksusa.com/computereyestrain.htm
2. "There's relief for computing - related eye strain", R. Garner; http://www.cnn.com/TECH/computing/9805/25/eyestrain.idg/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A grand time with Michel Legrand

By Edmund L. Sicam

THERE are interviews which one wishes would end right away because the subject is at a loss for words and mouths trite remarks like "*panoorin nyo ang pelikula ko dahil talagang naiiba ito sa lahat ng ginawa ko na*." Then there are interviews which one wishes could go on for hours because the subject is so quotable and has such interesting stories to tell.

Enjoyable experience

Our session with Michel Legrand, who composed such hits as "What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?" and "How Do You Keep the Music Playing?" belongs to the second category. Unfortunately, we only had half an hour to speak to him in his suite at the Westin Philippine Plaza before his second performance recently at the PICC.

The moment we shook hands with him, we knew this was going to be an enjoyable experience. He reminded us of a favorite uncle who regaled us with stories of his colorful life. Legrand, who turns 70 tomorrow, had plenty of stories for us.

We read on the Net that Legrand never uses the piano when he's composing, so we asked him why. "As a student at the conservatory (he entered the Paris Conservatory of Music at the age of 10 and stayed there for 11 years), I had to compose without any musical instrument. I do use the piano to excite me, to put me in the mood, but when I start to write, I put it aside. On the piano, I only have 10 fingers, but in silence, my imagination is limitless."

Changes

When Legrand is done, he doesn't play his piece to find out how it sounds, or if any changes should be made. "I don't have to," he says matter-of-factly. "Of course, I make lots of changes. I use the eraser more than the pencil when I'm working. You write and rewrite. One is never satisfied. I never turn the page. That means it's already perfect. So I look back at the first page and redo it all the time."

So, when does the process end? "When a deadline is given to me. I have to be ready Tuesday at two o'clock because the song is going to be recorded. So I have to turn the page and continue so the work will be ready by Monday."

One concrete example was "The Windmills of Your Mind," the song that was used in the 1968 movie "The Thomas Crown Affair" and won the Oscar for Best Song that year. Legrand had commented to director Norman Jewison that a song would fit quite nicely in the scene where Steve McQueen flies a hang glider. Jewison agreed so Legrand sat down with his favorite lyricists Alan and Marilyn Bergman and finished the song overnight, then presented it the very next day to Jewison, who liked it immediately.

Experience

Speaking of the award-winning song, Legrand had an interesting tale to tell. The composer never runs out of stories with every question we ask him. It helps, of course, that he's had decades of experience in the business, with over 200 film scores, over 100 albums, four Oscar awards from 13 nominations, five Grammys and one Emmy nomination to his name. The story:

When it was time to record the song for the movie, they looked around for someone to sing it. Noel Harrison, son of the late Rex Harrison, had a few hits and seemed like a logical choice. Legrand and the Bergmans went to see Harrison and played the song for him. The British singer didn't like it and wanted some changes.

Legrand fumed and told him, "You either sing it as it's written, or you don't sing it at all." Eventually, Harrison agreed to do it without changes but he left a bad taste in the composer's mouth.

Years later, Legrand got a call from Harrison, who was profuse with thanks because the song stayed No. 1 on the charts for a long time. Legrand was still mad at the singer and told him, "I don't want to talk to you ever again, you (expletive deleted)."

Surprise

So for 40 years, the two never crossed paths at all. Last year, Legrand got an award from some music body ("The Americans are always giving awards," he says wryly). The organization had a surprise for him. Someone was going to sing his famous song from "The Thomas Crown Affair" and of course they had asked Harrison to do it. That really floored the composer!

LEGRAND. Never runs out of interesting stories to tell.

PHOTO BY JEANNE LIM

"The Windmills of Your Mind' is the song that plays in the background as McQueen, playing the multimillionaire and bank robber Thomas Crown, flies a glider. We found out earlier that Legrand flew his own plane, so we ask if this was before or after the movie. He said it happened while they were making the film.

Fear of flying

"In my job, I fly all the time. The only problem is that I'm scared of flying. For seven years, I was forced to take airplanes and I hated it. I was so nervous that I used to drink a lot before boarding the plane. Once the plane took off, I couldn't take a sip so what I did was bring a fountain pen, but instead of ink, it contained scotch!

"I was miserable for a long time until a close friend, (comedian) Danny Kaye, told me, 'The only way to get rid of your fear is to learn how to pilot a plane.' I told him, 'Are you crazy? If I'm alone in the plane, I'll probably jump!'

One day, I took Danny's advice and went to flying school. It was a terrible experience, at first. I was on the floor most of the time. But eventually, I learned to fly. Now, I have my pilot's license. I'm not scared anymore. I love to fly. I love to flirt with the sky and the clouds."

In the middle of the interview, singer Regine Velasquez showed up. We learned that she was doing an album with Legrand, and even a concert tour in Asia. (***To be concluded***)

SEÑA. Exceptional tenor voice.

World-class singer-actor Robert Seña is happy to be home

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Saturday, we caught Robert Seña's post-Valentine show at Crossroad 77 in Quezon City. The minute Robert began to sing, he had the capacity audience in the palm of his hand.

Vivid impression

His exceptional tenor voice and emotive prowess made a vivid impression in his listeners, and left them asking for more. The other performers in the show—Jamie Rivera, Anna Fegi, the Whiplash Dancers and the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, also registered strongly with the audience.

But we focused on Robert because his confident and much-appreciated performance prompted us to flash back to a very different scene some three years ago.

There we were in a small restaurant with Robert and his wife Isay Alvarez, and Robert looked worried. He had asked for this dinner meeting on one of his vacations from starring in the "Miss Saigon" and "Jesus Christ Superstar" musicals in Europe, because he wasn't sure about his future as an entertainer.

Big success

He was a big success in musical plays abroad, but after performing for more than a decade in Europe, his heart longed for home, to sing and act for his countrymen. And yet he was nervous about giving up his well-paying and flourishing performing career abroad for an insecure future in the Philippines. What should he do?

We started out by agreeing with him that the big money (in British pounds) he was earning as a musical-theater lead player abroad was not easy to give up. But, after a decade of giving international audiences his best, we felt that it was time for him to do the same for his fellow Filipinos.

Roots

Also, his and Isay's kids were growing up, and it would be better for them if they set down roots here, rather than in some foreign country with a different and perhaps conflicting way of life.

Yes, performing here would pay less than professional theater abroad. But if he planned his career moves well, and focused producers' and the public's attention on his exceptional performing abilities, we felt that he could make a go of it here.

We pointed out that, aside from the mainstream market, there was a smaller but still substantial audience in the Philippines for strong and fine singing, and that he could do exceptionally well.

Trial period

Besides, he had given over 10 years of his life to foreign audiences, and we were only asking for a three-year trial period here. If he didn't make it, he could always go back to performing abroad, where he has built quite a solid reputation as a world-class talent.

Well, last Saturday as we saw Robert perform, we reminded ourselves that his three-year "trial period" was up—and yet, it was clear that Robert's career here was successful, he was thoroughly enjoying himself, and it didn't look like he was about to pack his bags and head for the European musical-theater scene once more.

Innate musical gift

We were glad about that because we really believe that, while Filipino talents should hone their performing skills abroad, they should eventually do the bulk of their performances here, as their way of "paying it forward" to the nation whose innate musical gift has made it possible for them to stand out abroad, in the first place.

Sure, they have to sacrifice, to accept less money, but the satisfaction is far greater when you're giving your best to your very own.

Aside from doing a lot of shows here, Robert has come up with his second CD, so mainstream musical stardom remains a viable prospect.

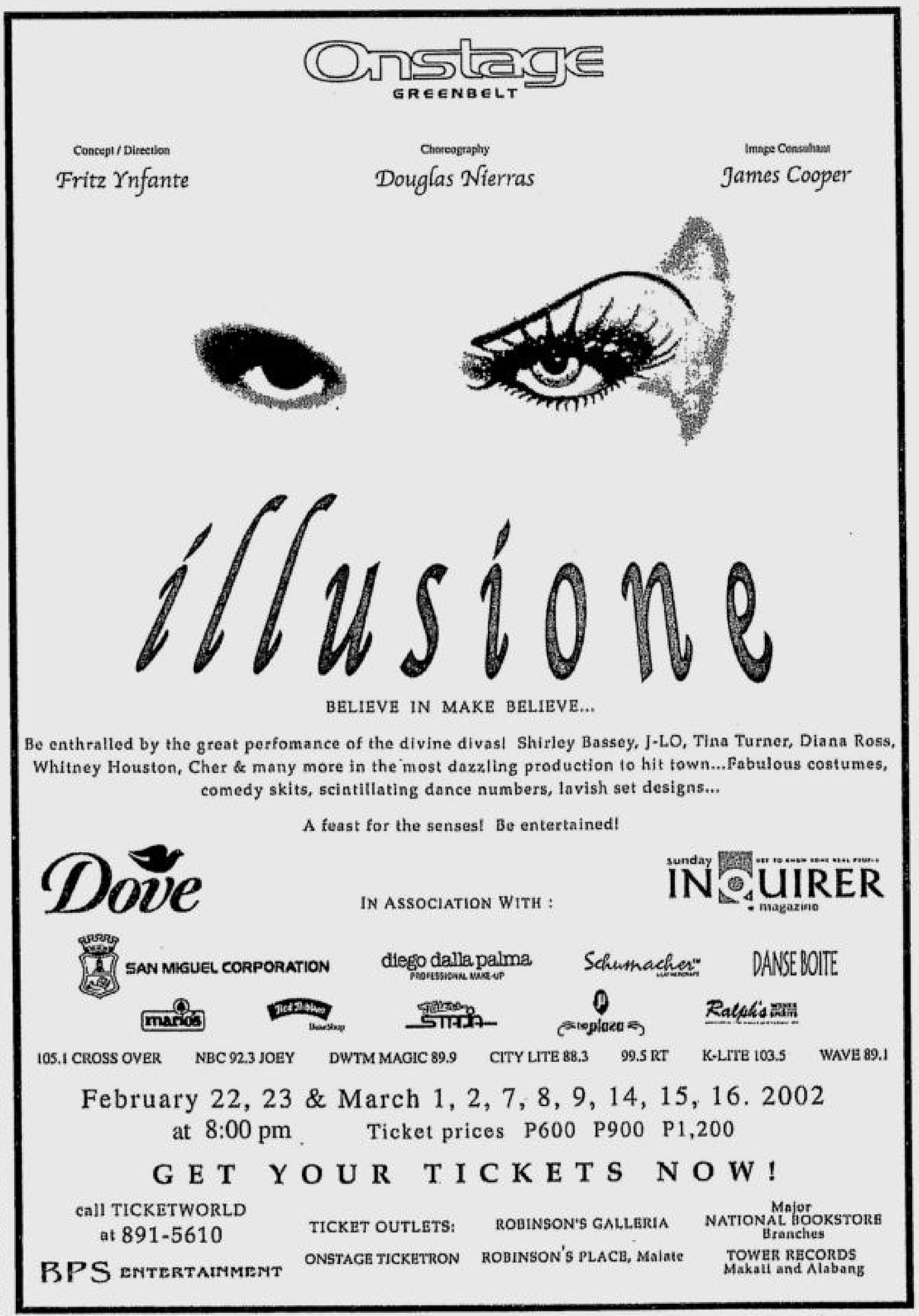
Robert may be happy with the way that his singing career is going now, but we sense that his happiness would be more complete if producers and directors realized that he is also a strong and versatile actor, and should be cast in non-singing roles as well.

Concert venue

As we left the concert venue, we reminded ourselves that we must really do something this year about that special project we were talking about in London some years ago. We all must do everything we can to keep our best talents challenged and fulfilled as they perform here at home.

As for the members of the audience, they should go out of their way to make our finest performers feel appreciated, rather than pass them up for the more "colonial" appeal of foreign stars. Let's start with Robert Seña.

"Pag dating sa palaman, dapat masustansya."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Denzel

From page C1

The $12 million project opened better than other recent pop star vehicles, including Mandy Moore's "A Walk To Remember" ($12.2 million) and Mariah Carey's infamous "Glitter" ($2.4 million). The Moore film has since gone on to gross more than $35 million, ensuring a tidy profit for production partners Warner Bros. and Pandora Films.

Strong support

"Return to Never Land" and "Super Troopers" were also set to be very profitable, thanks to strong support from families and young males, respectively. The former cost about $19.5 million to make, while the latter was a $3 million acquisition at last year's Sundance Film Festival.

Officials at MGM declined to comment on "Hart's War," which follows closely on the heels of another Bruce Willis/MGM disappointment, "Bandits." MGM also flopped last weekend with its $85 million remake of "Rollerball," which has grossed just $16 million after 11 days. According to Gitesh Pandya at www.boxofficeguru.com, "Hart's War" marks Willis' worst opening since 1996's "Last Man Standing" ($7 million).

The family comedy "Big Fat Liar" (Universal) fell two places to No. 4 in its second weekend with $11.9 million. The film's 11-day total rose to $25.4 million. "Snow Dogs" (Walt Disney) took No. 10 in its fifth weekend with $7 million, taking its total to $68.4 million.

Reuters

Councilor Aiko

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

IF THERE was a time early in her career that Aiko Melendez hated me with a passion, I really couldn't blame her. At that time, I ate controversy for breakfast, intrigue for lunch and scandal for dinner.

Interview

When Aiko guested on my TV show on the eve of her grand coming-out party, I surprised her with an emotionally-charged taped interview with her dad Jimi Melendez, who was then penniless and terminally ill. He implored her to please help him out in his misery. Aiko cried. She was mortified.

It's easy to see now that what I did was very naughty. But then, I was asked by her producer to promote "My Pretty Baby," her launching movie and ticket to fame and fortune—and good or bad, publicity was still publicity, right?

Besides, I just couldn't turn my back on the story value of an 18-year-old movie star having the biggest ball of her life while her father languished in destitution, illness and despair. Of course, I very conveniently ignored the fact that the father must have inflicted incalculable pain on his daughter's heart for her to feel the way she did towards him.

The upside to that unfortunate incident was that Aiko and Jimi got to put behind them all the resentments and hurts they had bottled up for many years.

Joy

Before Jimi joined his Maker, he experienced the joy of being cared for by his estranged but beloved daughter. In turn, Aiko was given the opportunity to achieve closure with regard to her most bitter pain.

Since that time, I've watched Aiko's ascent to stardom from a distance. She is a fierce fighter and survivor. Her motto could very well be: "No retreat, no surrender."

She took on everything that life dealt her with a courageous spirit and a longing for adventure. And through it all, she has emerged victorious. She now wears her scars from her many battles like the medals of valor that they most certainly are.

When I saw her recently, I was glad for her. She was the picture of a happy warrior who has vanquished a lot and is raring to conquer more. Indeed, she's a winner.

She's had more than her share of failures, but the measure of her victory is in her ability to rise from the ashes of her pain.

"I really didn't have much choice, Ate Luds," she told me with a smile. "All my life, I fended for myself because I had no one to do it for me. Whenever a big problem came, I couldn't allow myself to sulk and wallow in misery.

Only choice

"The only choice I had was to stand up, move on and live life the way I saw it. Actually, there are no losers, only people who choose not to stand up when they fall."

The decision to break up with Jomari Yllana, her husband and father of three-year-old Andre, was just one instance when Aiko chose to stand up.

And she's happier now, she said. She has no time to cry over her marital woes as her hands are full taking care of her son and attending to her many tasks and obligations as councilor of the second district of Quezon City.

Barely eight months in office, Aiko has taken to politics like a fish to water. She's the chair of the Committee on Public Affairs, Information and People's Participation and the NGO-PO Accreditation Committee; vice chair of the Committee on Cultural Affairs and Tourism, and member of the Committee on City Planning, Building and Zoning Regulations, Committee on Education, Science and Technology, Committee on the Urban Poor, Committee on Cooperatives, and Committee on Energy, Water Resources and Other Public Services.

MELENDEZ. Fighter and survivor.

On top of all that, she has her feeding programs, dental-medical missions, sportsfest for out-of-school-youths, mass weddings and mass baptisms, anti-rabies inoculation project, book-giving for public school libraries, renovation of day care centers, etc.

Focus

Her focus, quite understandably, is on the welfare of children. "I can relate with the plight of children, especially those who come from broken homes, because I came from one myself," she said matter-of-factly.

"One project I really like is bringing to Enchanted Kingdom children from Payatas and other areas where the poorest of the poor live. I believe that poor children also deserve to savor what rich kids enjoy."

Aiko, the politician, is quite fulfilled. "Yes, Ate Luds, that's one big difference between show biz and politics. In show biz, you just entertain people. In politics, you have the power to improve their lives. Between an acting trophy and a smile from an abused child you have helped, the latter is definitely more heart-warming and fulfilling."

Indeed, Aiko is too busy touching other people's lives to be bothered about such mundane matters as problems with her marriage. "I'm very thankful that I don't have time to think about Joms," she laughed. "The most painful part, of course, is when Andre looks for him. That really gets me right here," she pointed to her heart.

No time for suitors

Aiko also doesn't have time for suitors—although she readily admitted that there are three men knocking on her heart right now. "Jomari was quoted as saying he now gives me his blessings to entertain suitors. For one, I don't need his blessings for that. For another, I gave him my blessings first."

Seriously, Aiko has made the decision to seal her heart. She's too devoted to her work and her son. And she doesn't want to give Jomari the chance to later say they're "quits" because she has a boyfriend.

Is reconciliation with her estranged husband a possibility, no matter how remote? Aiko's answer was non-committal: "I don't want to think about it. Right now, I'm enjoying my freedom and my work. I want things to remain the way are.

"No one wants a broken marriage. But then, I'd rather have that than a broken life. Right now, my life is quite full and complete."

When I left Aiko that hot and humid afternoon, I remembered the young lady on the verge of womanhood crying on national television many summers ago, promoting "My Pretty Baby." There's still a hint of vulnerability and softness in her today, but definitely, Councilor Aiko is no longer just a pretty baby.

Pilita at Stars of Giorgio tonight

ALL roads lead to the Chino Roces strip (formerly Pasong Tamo ext.) on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2002, as Asia's Queen of Songs, Ms Pilita Corrales, stars in a rare musical engagement, "An Intimate Evening with Pilita . . . Her Greatest Hits" at Makati's trendy dining and entertainment venue, Stars of Giorgio Restaurant and Bar.

CORRALES. Durable performer.

Most popular songs

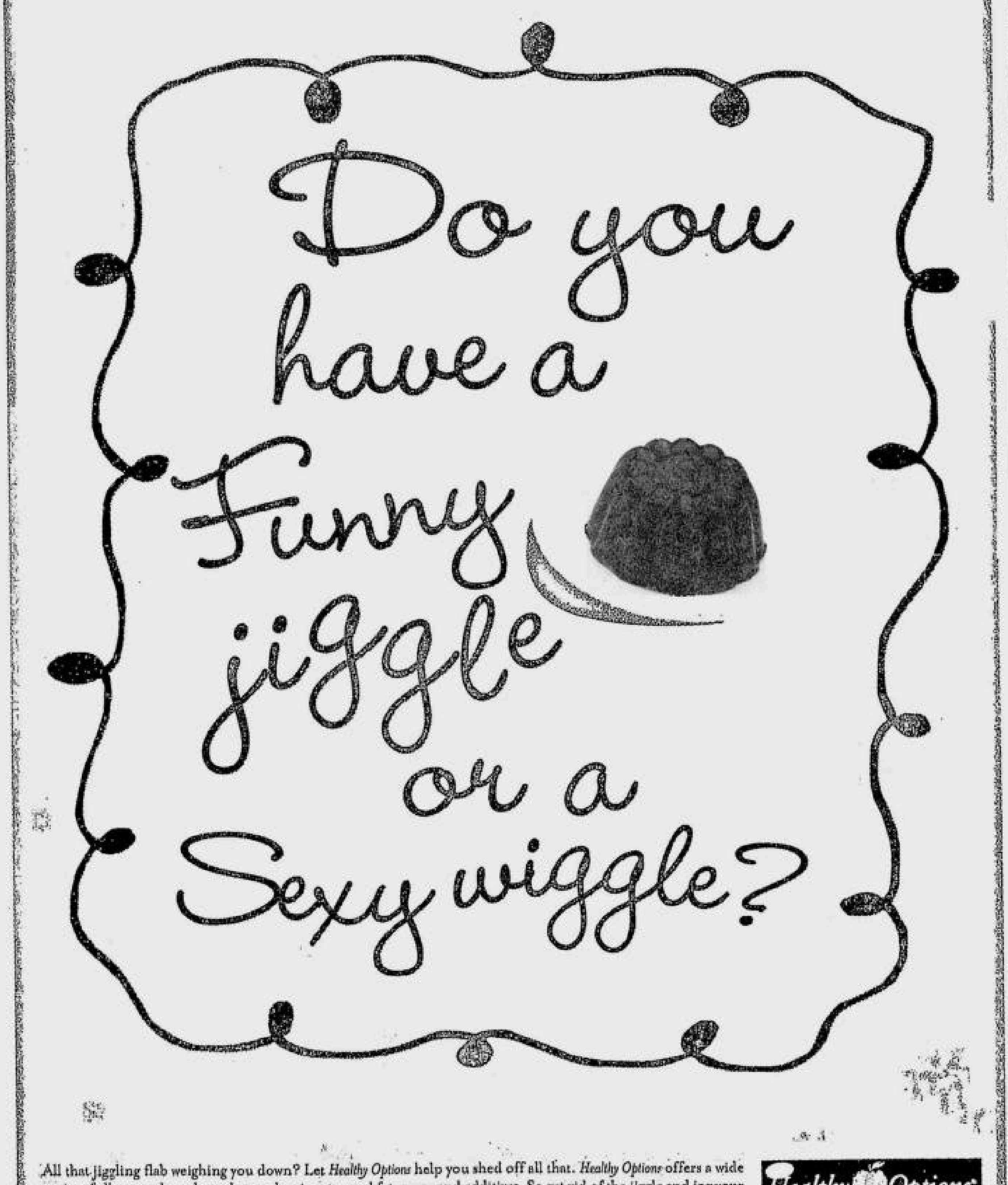
Pilita will light up the evening with her most popular songs including "A Million Thanks to You," When Eyes are Filled with Tears," "You Don't Have to say You Love Me" and "What Name Shall I Give You My Love," which, incidentally, was composed by good friend and Stars of Giorgio's owner, George Sison, and was later recorded and released internationally by the 3rd Generation Platters.

Aside from these songs, Pilita will also be rendering well-loved Tagalog tunes like "Kapantay ay Langit," "Pipit," "Dahil sa Iyo," "San Ka Man Naroroon;" popular Visayan ditties like "Matud Nila," "Pobreng Alindahaw," "Usahay," "Dandansoy;" and cherished Spanish classics like "Noche de Ronda," "Solamente Una Vez," "Besa Me Mucho," "El Dia Que Me Quiere," "Historia de un Amor," and "Angelitos Negros."

Dinner

A delectable dinner precedes the concert, with dishes like Jupiter's Ball (Sizzling Balut—the famous Giorgio way), Lactuca (cream of lettuce soup), Aquarius Couscous Salad (combination of assorted seafood tossed with couscous in herb vinaigrette and complemented with roasted garlic), Medusa's dream (grilled king prawns) or Shank of Venus with garlic rice, and Tierra Cielo (light and fluffy yogurt and Citrus fruit mousse cake with raisin).

Call 893-7520. Stars Of Giorgio is located at Priscilla 100 bldg., 2297 Chino Roces ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo Extension), Makati City.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"Dapat masarap."

Olivia Lamasan plays it light, for a change

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"GOT 2 Believe" is being sold as the comeback movie of the Claudine Barretto-Rico Yan movie love team, but we're more interested in the fact that Olivia Lamasan is directing Star Cinema's post-Valentine offering (opening on Feb. 27).

Like her two stars, Lamasan in making a big-screen comeback of sorts with "Got 2 Believe," which is her first feature film in a long time. From where we sit, it looks like the new movie is much lighter than many of Lamasan's past films, so we're interested to see how well she manages the shift in tone and style.

It's likely that she'll be able to pull it off, because Lamasan has paid her dues as a TV-film writer-director. She started as a production assistant way back in 1984, working with outstanding directors like Laurice Guillen.

By 1987, Lamasan had proven her mettle and was made a feature film line producer *and* executive producer for television.

In 1991, she established herself as a screenplay and teleplay writer. The following year, she started directing for television. In 1994, she megged her first film.

Highlights of Lamasan's career: As TV director, she helmed "Sa Kandungan Mo, Inay" for ABS-CBN's "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" in 1993, and the episode was cited as Best Drama by the Catholic Mass Media Awards for Television.

In 1994, her "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" episode, "Lupa," was singled out as Best Drama by the Star Awards for Television.

In 1996, "Abo" won an Asian TV award, aside from honors from CMMA and Star TV awards.

And In 1997, "Pahiram ng Isang Pasko" was named Best TV Drama by the Gawad CCP Awards:

As movie writer: In 1992, she wrote the screenplay for "Ipagpatawad Mo," which won Star and Urian awards.

As movie director-writer: In 1994, "Maala-ala Mo Kaya, The Movie" won Manila filmfest, CMMA, FAP, Urian and Star awards, and was screened at filmfests in Japan.

In 1995, "Sana Maulit Muli" clinched honors from the Urian, Star and FAP awards.

In 1996, "Madrasta" won Urian, FAP, Star, Famas and People's Choice awards.

All these achievements in the span of 18 years augur well for Lamasan's future as an outstanding and prolific TV-film writer-director.

JACKIELOU Blanco (left) is now a fitness icon.

Jackielou Blanco in Snack 2002

After winning the Slimmers World Great Bodies tilt, actress-singer-TV host Jackielou Blanco has assumed yet another persona, that of fitness icon. Her transformation has involved her in activities geared toward feeling good and looking great.

Jackie is now swamped with invitations to speak on maintaining a healthy body. She will soon host a fitness portion on a TV show and a weekly TV sports challenge, and she will also write a physical fitness column.

In addition, Jackie will conduct basic exercises for kids from 7 to 13 years old at this year's SNACK (Summer Nature and Arts Camp for Kids) at Taal Lake Yacht Club in Talisay, Batangas, from April 8 to 13.

SNACK 2002 also offers sailing, mountaineering, archery, gymnastics, hand-building pottery, tie-dyeing, photography, taekwondo, acting, a visit to a plant nursery, and LUBID team-building adventure games.

Now on its fourth year, SNACK is supported by nature grants from Purefoods, Coleman, Konica, Standard Insurance, L.A. Gear, Conquer Mountaineering Equipment, Acof Syrup for Kids, Sandugo Sandals, 88.8 Citylite, 105,1 Crossover, Joey @ 92.3, and The Philippine Daily Inquirer. Call camp director Bibsy Carballo at 721-0801 or 0917-8991835.

Jackie's kids, Kenneth and Rikki Mae, participated in last year's SNACK. "Children should be made aware of the importance of exercise," Jackie points out. "Any form of simple exercise plus healthy eating habits, will benefit them in the long run."

'Legacy 2002' at Glorietta

Filipino culture and design are being showcased until Feb. 28 at the Ayala Grand Mall at the Glorietta in Makati City. The showcase, "Legacy 2002: Celebrating Being Filipino," is being put up by the Makati Cultural Affairs Office, the Ayala Center and Island Finds Trading and Consultancy.

The weeklong exhibit also joins Rotary International in marking RI Peace Day on Feb. 23. And it highlights significant tribes to mark the United Nations Decade of Indigenous Peoples.

Daily demonstrations showcase floor-loom weaving, table-top weaving by the disabled, basket weaving by the Kalinga, and stone printing by the disabled. Call the Museo ng Makati at 896-2464.

Exhibits include products of Narda's, Kalinga Ethnic Handwoven and Antique and OLM Treasures, and Island Finds' muslim and other tribal collections of Tony Cervantes.

Also exhibiting their works are artists Juan Sajid, Abe Luna Orobia, Maite Marques and Fernando Catague. Plus the silversmiths of Micheli's, the Cora Jacob Collection and the Cora Cares Foundation, Lucas Works Corp, Islanders Arts and Crafts, and Myra's.

And livelihood groups under Makati's Social Services Division, the piña weavers of Aklan presented by PTRI, Bulacan artisans through the Entrepinoy Foundation, etc.

Meet Diana Zubiri, new bold princess

THERE'S a new bold princess in our midst: Diana Zubiri is now being built up by Seiko Films, which has discovered some of local movies' top sex symbols. Diana is 18, a former *colegiala*, shapely, and blessed with smooth skin and pretty face.

ZUBIRI. Fragility of relationships.

Classy beauties

Seiko people note Diana's being cross between Dina Bonnevie and Sharmaine Arnaiz, classy beauties and fine actresses. She's flattered, but Diana hastens to point out that her favorite is Vilma Santos, whose films she does not tire of watching. Diana Zubiri is introduced in a lead role in Seiko Films' "Itlog" also starring Rodel Velayo, Allona Amor, Winston Elizalde and Celso Ad Castillo. The film is directed by Jun Posadas, written by Jerry Gracio and photographed by Romy Vitug.

Classmates have long been telling Diana that she has the looks of a movie star and she ought to try show biz. Although she's always dreamt of being an actress, studies remained her priority—until her family experienced financial difficulties.

Retelling

Direk Jun and scriptwriter Gracio explain that "Itlog" is used as a metaphor for the fragility of relationships. It is a retelling of the story of the prodigal son, probing into relationships between father and son, husband and wife, man and woman.

In the story, Diana obeys the dying wish of her father and marries an old man (Celso), owner of a duck farm in the coastal town of Laguna Bay. His son (Rodel) resents it and asks for his inheritance.

When the father refuses, the son steals his money and flees to Manila. Celso finds a surrogate son in a newly-hired farm hand in the person of Winston, an ex-convict who wants to lead a new life.

Complications ensue when Diana falls in love with Winston. Will he turn his back on the man who treats him like his own son? Will he succumb to Diana's seduction? Meanwhile, Rodel leads a profligate life in the city.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Life and art fuse in Neil Simon's first memoir

By Noelani Torre

THE front and back covers of Neil Simon's memoir "Rewrites" (Simon and Schuster) are liberally covered with enthusiastic excerpts from glowing reviews—which, after reading the book, we agree with. We were hard put to find any more 100-watt phrases that hadn't already been used.

First thought

We do try though, and our humble verdict is this: It's a terrific book. We loved it. We could hardly put it down, and when we turned the last page, our first thought was to read it all over again.

"Rewrites" is the first of Simon's memoirs and it deals with the early years of his writing and theatrical career. (The celebrated playwright has recently published the second and last volume of his memoirs, "The Play Goes On," which tackles his life from 1973 to the present.)

For those who are unfamiliar with Neil Simon and his work, here's a little backgrounder:

"Marvin Neil Simon was born in New York City in 1927. His plays, nearly all of them popular, if not critical successes, are comedies treating recognizable aspects of modern, middle-class life.

Master jokesmith

"Particularly adept at portraying the middle-aged, Simon is a master jokesmith who builds up his characters through funny lines rather than plot, although he does often attempt serious themes.

"'The Gingerbread Lady' (1970), for example, deals honestly with alcoholism, and his Pulitzer Prize-winning 'Lost in Yonkers' (1991) treats the anguish of parental rejection.

"His many other plays include 'Come Blow Your Horn' (1961), 'Barefoot in the Park' (1963), 'The Odd Couple' (1965), 'Plaza Suite' (1968), 'The Prisoner of Second Avenue' (1971), 'The Good Doctor' (1973), 'God's Favorite' (1974), 'Brighton Beach Memoirs' (1983), 'Biloxi Blues' (1984), 'Broadway Bound' ((1986), and 'Laughter on the 23rd Floor' (1993). Many of his plays have been adapted into films, and Simon has written numerous screenplays."

"FUNNY, INTELLIGENT, BITTERSWEET."
—JONATHAN YARDLEY, THE WASHINGTON POST
Rewrites

"REWRITES." Enjoyable tour of Simon's life.

Simon has also been called "America's preeminent craftsman of theater comedy" and "America's most popular playwright" by critics and admirers alike. Though he has been criticized in the past for his writing's "lack in depth," we feel that in "Rewrites" he proves all those bashers wrong.

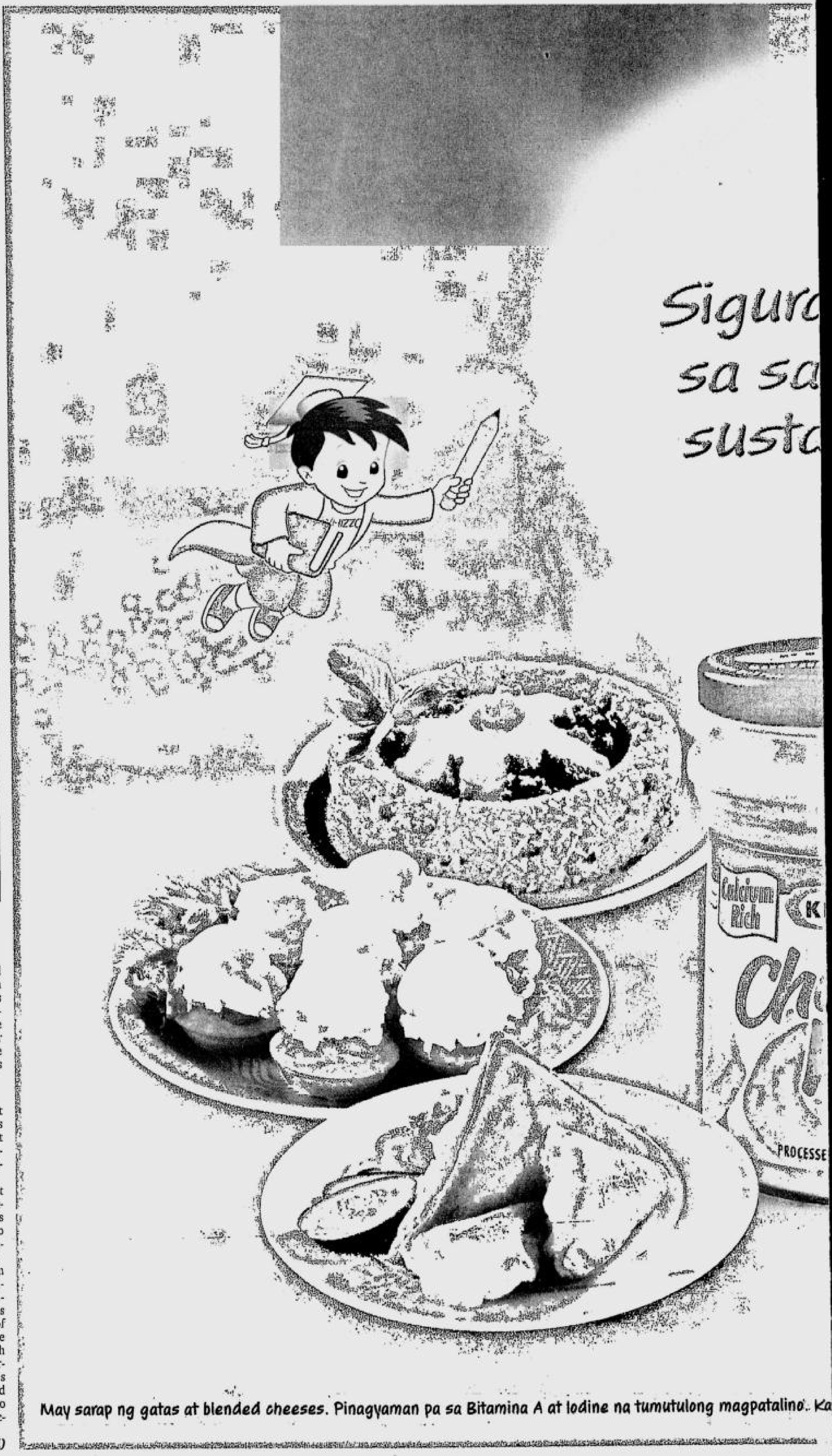
Deeply moving

Funny and deeply moving at the same time, "Rewrites" takes us on a highly enjoyable tour of what the author himself calls "the formative and possibly the most exciting stages of my life."

Though Simon's life is the farthest thing from being funny, his straightforward examination of it and his remarkably droll tone enjoin us to chuckle at his anecdotes and empathize with him in his past troubles.

The book is not structured in the usual manner of autobiographies, with the author expounding on childhood misadventures before moving on to the parts of his life that the reader is more familiar with. Simon begins with the stages that we are most interested in—his first shaky steps into the field of playwriting and the obstacles he had to go through before obtaining his successful, respected stature.

(To be concluded)


Sigur
sa sa
susta
Calcium Rich
PROCESSE
May sarap ng gatas at blended cheeses. Pinagyaman pa sa Bitamina A at Iodine na tumutulong magpatalino. Ka

Sting on roll from Oscars to Brit Awards

STING. Goes up against Paul McCartney in the Oscar's Best Song category.

By Paul Majendie

The pop star is estimated to be worth $285 M

LONDON—For Sting, 2002 is looking good.

Six million people have come to hear the singer on his latest world tour. He has been nominated for a Hollywood Oscar and on Wednesday gets a lifetime achievement award from a grateful British record industry.

Fortune

Those velvet tonsils have earned him a fortune estimated to be worth as much as 200 million pounds ($285 million). When his accountant plundered several million, he confessed he had not noticed the money was missing.

Small wonder it's difficult keeping track of your fortune when "Every Breath You Take" is said to earn Sting $1,000 a day from US airplay alone.

The former frontman for the supergroup Police has seven homes around the world, from Tuscany to Malibu. His wife, actress-turned-film producer Trudie Styler, even bought him one in Britain for his birthday. "I cried," he confessed.

Six children

Sting is fiercely proud of his six children from two marriages. He still feels guilty that his first marriage—to actress Frances Tomelty—broke down.

Critics may mock him for his lavish praise of tantric sex and for taking himself far too seriously in the battle to save Amazonian rainforests.

But after a quarter of a century at the top, there is no denying the staying power of Gordon Sumner, nicknamed Sting after a girlfriend once knitted him a black and yellow hooped sweater that made him look like a bee.

British rock stars like Elton John have been steadily stealing a march on the best song category at the Oscars.

Next month Sting, who penned "Until" for the Meg Ryan movie "Kate and Leopold," goes head to head with Paul McCartney, who wrote the "Vanilla Sky" song for the Tom Cruise movie.

But on Wednesday night it is the turn of the Brit Awards—the record industry's annual love-in—to recognize Sting with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Accolade

"It does feel a bit like a gold watch," the 50-year-old singer confessed of the accolade.

But the former teacher who was 26 before he found fame has no complaints about the glamorous rock 'n' roll lifestyle that has brought him untold riches.

"I know I'm wealthy but I'm not bothered how much I've got. I don't know and I don't care," he confessed to the Sun tabloid in an interview. And he's not finished yet.

"I look after myself but I know I'm not immortal. I hope to live a long life and would love another 50 years or so. I can just imagine Trudie and me shuffling around the garden aged 110." *Reuters*

Sacred Heart Academy-Pasig's top mentors

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

AT Sacred Heart Academy-Pasig, there are four mentors who are known as the four aces of SHAP. They don't sing but because of them, students, parents and other teachers have something good to sing about.

Torchbearer

SHAP's ace is its founder and director, Jose Antonio Kierulf. He is the torchbearer in its quest to become a premiere learning institution in the area.

He is a graduate of Woodbury University in Los Angeles, California. He was a successful entrepreneur until he stopped to teach at the school his mother, the late, Ms Luisa F. Keirulf, founded.

No. 2 is Ms Lorna Gonzalez, SHAP principal. She is finishing her thesis for a masteral degree in Educational Management.

No. 3 is Ms Josefina Pano. She has a Master of Arts degree in Education in Reading from Cardinal Stritca College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.

Masters degree

No. 4 is Ms Rose Marie B. Villamor, or Ms V, the language arts consultant, with a masters degree in Speech Education from Columbia, New York, USA and a masters degree in Spanish from Instituto de Cultura Hispanica in Madrid, Spain.

SHAP is located at M. Suarez (formerly Market ave.) Maybunga, Pasig City, with contact numbers 641-2369 and 641-2264.

Only three years old, the school now has 400 students and has recently added High School classes from first to third years. Six new air-conditioned classrooms, a main library and laboratories have been added. Foreign languages like Spanish and Mandarin are now part of the academic curriculum.

Advanced photo workshop

The Mandy Navasero Summer Photo Workshop has been teaching basic photography in black-and-white including darkroom procedures for the last 17 years.

From April 6 to May 18, for the first time, Navasero shifts to Advanced Photography, a weekend series of techniques geared towards advertising and fine arts photography. Topics are broken into weekends for Portraiture, Fashion and Glamour, Still-life Photography, Architectural, Food Photography and Travel/Landscape using available light.

The teacher graduated at Brooks Institute of Photographic Arts and Sciences with a degree in BA in Professional Photography major in Advertising and Illustration. For inquiries call 522-1905, 522-5185 or 522-5189, or CF 0916 306-0841. E-mail mn_photocom@i-manila.com or drop by the studio at 1935 Dominga st., Pasay City.

SHAP's founder and director Joey Kierulf, Lorna Gonzalez (left), principal, and Rose Villamor, language arts consultant.

SHAP. The three-year-old institution has 400 students.

Pinoy writers in Singapore

By Rica Arevalo

A BRIEF visit to Singapore last week gave me an opportunity to get in touch with three Filipino film and television writers. Who would ever have thought that Singapore would be a haven for these talented artists?

Clodualdo "Doy" del Mundo Jr. is using his one-year sabbatical from De La Salle University to teach in Singapore's premier film school, Ngee Ann Polytechnic. Doy teaches short film writing and feature film writing three times a week. He stays at the Ngee Ann staff apartments, a five-minute walk from the school.

Challenge

He tells me that his students in Manila and Singapore are alike. One time, he gave a three-page script assignment and his students rose to the challenge and came up with great stories even if the script was only three pages long.

Raymond Lee, in his early 30s and now sporting long hair, is writing for a television series called "First Touch." It is a weekly show about Singaporean doctors *ala* "E.R." He has been with the show for a year now and comes to Manila every three months.

Raymond co-wrote Star Cinema's "Anak" and "Tanging Yaman." He discloses that as a TV writer in Singapore, he only deals with his producer for the approval of his scripts. The director's only job is to execute the scenes and he does not do any script revisions.

Evangeline Limpoco-Tirona is a graduate of the 1997 Film Development Foundation Scriptwriting Workshop. Singapore has been her home for the past two years because her husband JJ works in the IT industry. Evangeline is the news editor of the monthly Filipino community magazine, OFW Pinoy Star.

Contributor

She started as a contributor, then got promoted to become a correspondent, and is now the news editor.

She writes most of the stories in the magazine. "*Balitang* Singapore *at Pilipinas, tsismis, buhay* OFW *ang isinusulat ko. Habol ako ng habol ng tao* for my interviews," she grins.

Do they miss the Philippines? Of course! "*May* sabbatical leave *ako sa* La Salle and I just wanted to try something new. When the offer came, I had to take it. Basically *sa* school *at* apartment *lang ako pumupunta*," shares Doy. He jokes, "*Minsan, kausap ko lang ang sarili ko.*"

No traffic

Raymond makes it a point to visit Manila every so often. "*Nakaka*-bore *minsan*. The transportation system is so effective, *walang* traffic, so *laging may libre kang oras*."

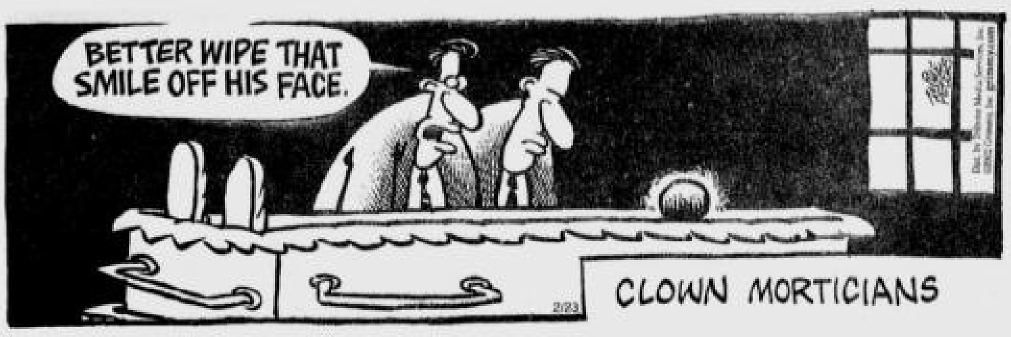
Evangeline brings his one-year-old son Levi to all her interviews. "I get invited to free concerts and entertainment affairs because of my job, *masaya naman* but we hope to go back to the Philippines ," she reflects.

Doy, Raymond and Evangeline are some of our "contract workers" that are using their creative talent to "educate" other people. One wonders what the local film industry would be like if all our talents looked for greener pastures abroad...

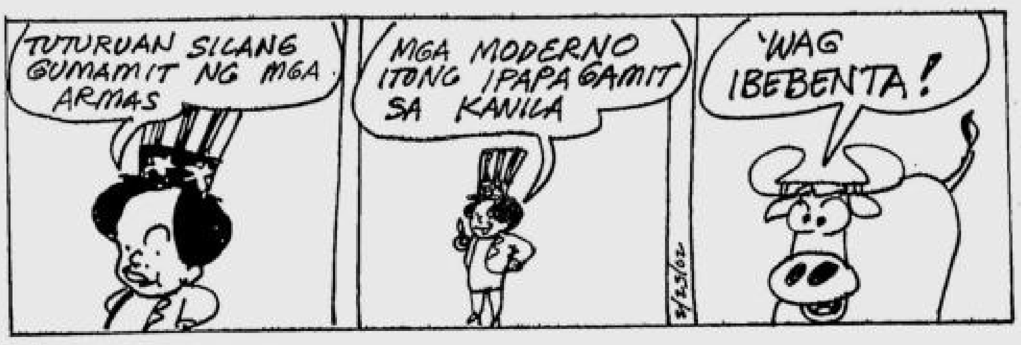
FROM left, Evangeline Tirona with son Levi, Ria Arevalo, the author, and Doy del Mundo at Doy's pad.

ado ka
rap at
nsya!
RAFT
eez
hiz
ALL-DAIRY
D CHEESE SPREAD
ya dito ka na sa sarap at sustansya na sigurado! You're sure to be a Whiz!

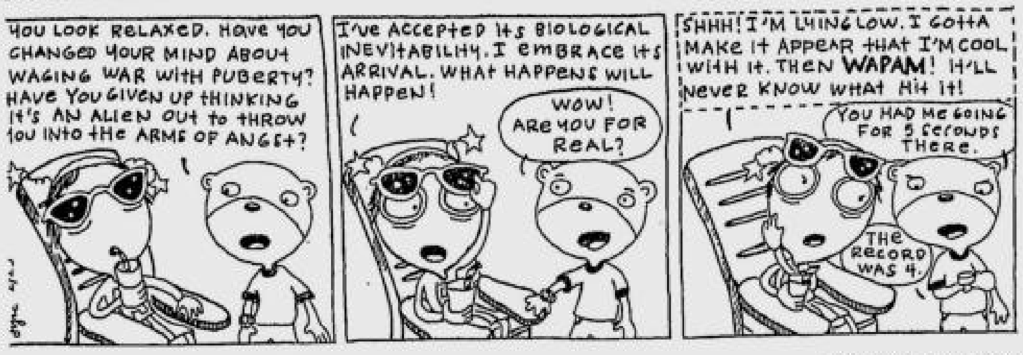
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS


BETTER WIPE THAT SMILE OFF HIS FACE.
CLOWN MORTICIANS
2/23

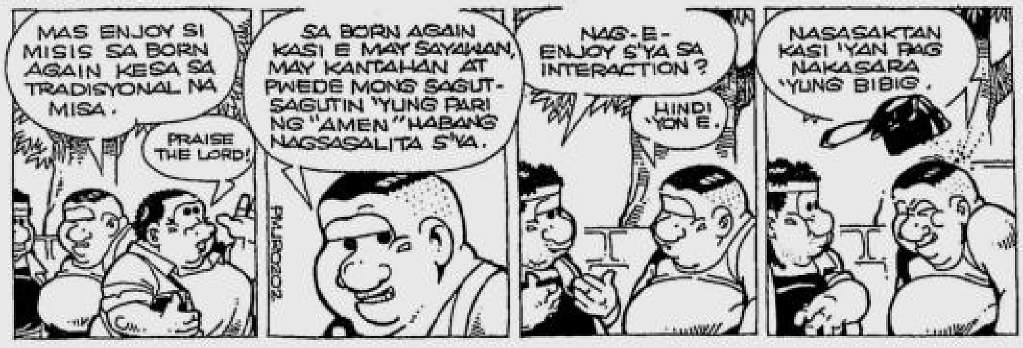
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


TUTURUAN SILANG GUMAMIT NG MGA ARMAS
MGA MODERNO ITONG IPAPAGAMIT SA KANILA
'WAG IBEBENTA!
2/23/02

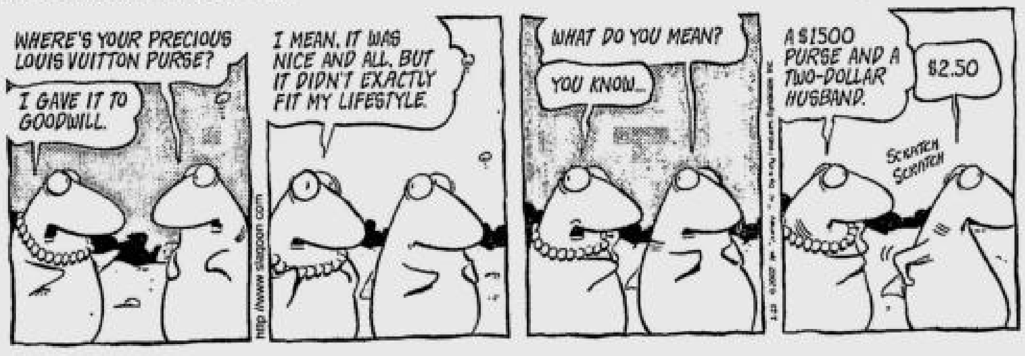
ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU LOOK RELAXED. HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT WAGING WAR WITH PUBERTY? HAVE YOU GIVEN UP THINKING IT'S AN ALIEN OUT TO THROW YOU INTO THE ARMS OF ANGST?
I'VE ACCEPTED ITS BIOLOGICAL INEVITABILITY. I EMBRACE ITS ARRIVAL. WHAT HAPPENS WILL HAPPEN!
WOW! ARE YOU FOR REAL?
SHHH! I'M LYING LOW. I GOTTA MAKE IT APPEAR THAT I'M COOL WITH IT. THEN WAPAM! IT'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT IT!
YOU HAD ME GOING FOR 5 SECONDS THERE.
THE RECORD WAS 4.

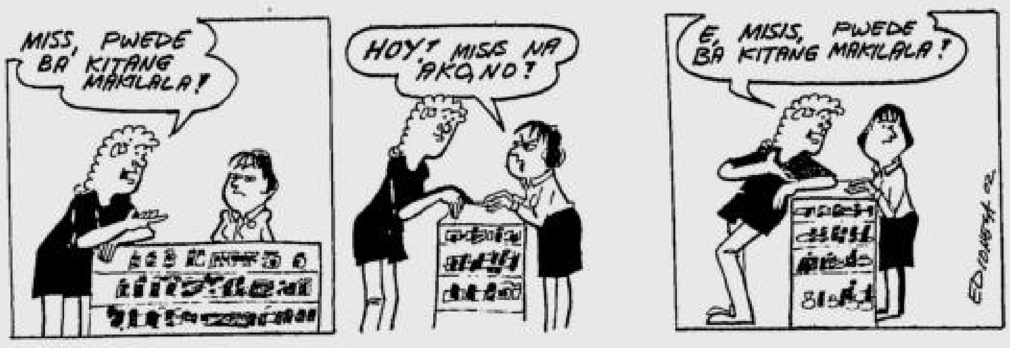
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAS ENJOY SI MISIS SA BORN AGAIN KESA SA TRADISYONAL NA MISA.
PRAISE THE LORD!
SA BORN AGAIN KASI E MAY SAYAWAN, MAY KANTAHAN AT PWEDE MONG SAGUT-SAGUTIN 'YUNG PARI NG "AMEN" HABANG NAGSASALITA S'YA.
PMJR2002
NAG-E-ENJOY S'YA SA INTERACTION?
HINDI 'YON E.
NASASAKTAN KASI 'YAN PAG NAKASARA 'YUNG BIBIG.

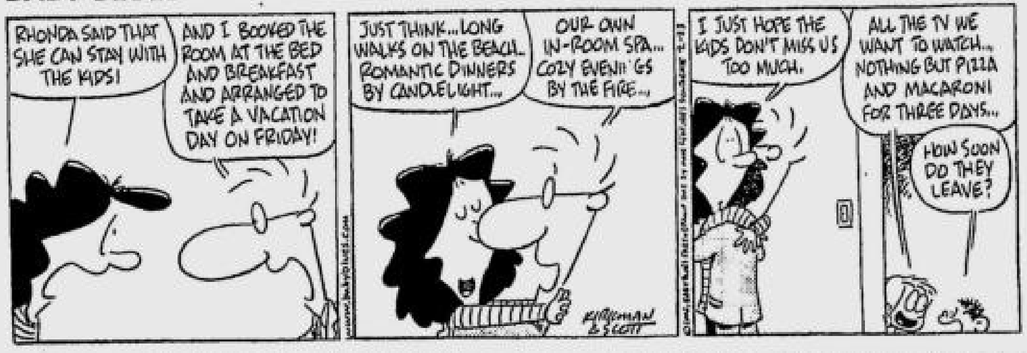
SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


WHERE'S YOUR PRECIOUS LOUIS VUITTON PURSE?
I GAVE IT TO GOODWILL.
I MEAN, IT WAS NICE AND ALL, BUT IT DIDN'T EXACTLY FIT MY LIFESTYLE.
http://www.slagoon.com
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU KNOW...
A $1500 PURSE AND A TWO-DOLLAR HUSBAND.
$2.50
SCRATCH SCRATCH

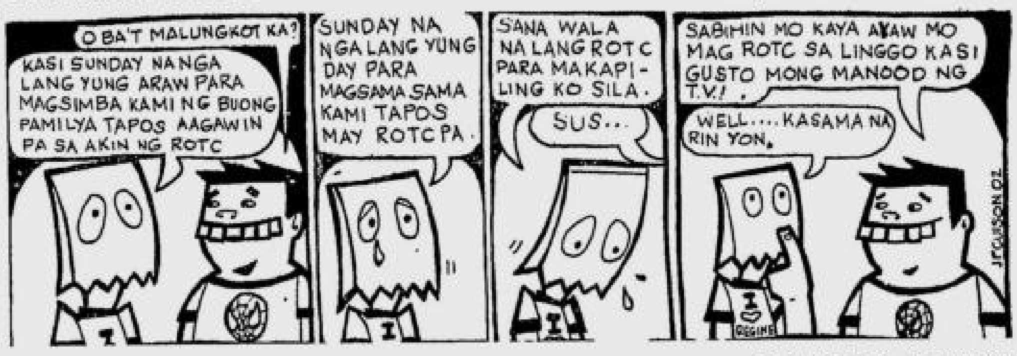
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


MISS, PWEDE BA KITANG MAKILALA?
HOY! MISIS NA 'AKO, NO?
E, MISIS, PWEDE BA KITANG MAKILALA?
EDIONELA '02

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


RHONDA SAID THAT SHE CAN STAY WITH THE KIDS!
AND I BOOKED THE ROOM AT THE BED AND BREAKFAST AND ARRANGED TO TAKE A VACATION DAY ON FRIDAY!
JUST THINK... LONG WALKS ON THE BEACH... ROMANTIC DINNERS BY CANDLELIGHT...
OUR OWN IN-ROOM SPA... COZY EVENINGS BY THE FIRE...
www.babyblues.com
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
I JUST HOPE THE KIDS DON'T MISS US TOO MUCH.
ALL THE TV WE WANT TO WATCH... NOTHING BUT PIZZA AND MACARONI FOR THREE DAYS...
HOW SOON DO THEY LEAVE?

GARAPATA BLOOD
BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


O BA'T MALUNGKOT KA?
KASI SUNDAY NA NGA LANG YUNG ARAW PARA MAGSIMBA KAMI NG BUONG PAMILYA TAPOS AAGAWIN PA SA AKIN NG ROTC
SUNDAY NA NGA LANG YUNG DAY PARA MAGGAMA SAMA KAMI TAPOS MAY ROTC PA.
SANA WALA NA LANG ROTC PARA MAKAPILING KO SILA.
SUS...
SABIHIN MO KAYA AYAW MO MAG ROTC SA LINGGO KASI GUSTO MONG MANOOD NG T.V.!
WELL.... KASAMA NA RIN YON.
REGINE
JTCUISON 02

HOROSCOPE
BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter Fonda, Johnny Winter, Tommy McCarthy, Helena Sukova

Happy Birthday: You'll have a cool attitude when it comes to partnerships of any kind this year. Your desire to do something special will lead to all sorts of entertaining ideas as well as connections. You will open your doors and invite people over whom you find stimulating and creative. Your numbers are 13, 18, 24, 28, 36, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't expect the people you live with to understand what it is you are trying to do. Keep busy and avoid discord.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Opportunities to take short pleasure trips will lead to interesting conversations. You will enjoy learning about different cultural backgrounds.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It may be time to think about all your options. You will have the discipline to study hard and to learn what is required to improve your earning potential.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will be more outgoing today so don't let it go to waste. Plan to get together with friends or someone you care deeply about and have some fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful not to let anyone push you into doing something that you really don't care to do. Be true to yourself and avoid fast-talking individuals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your involvement in groups and organizations will lead to all sorts of new connections that can help you in the future. Political groups should be considered. Your contributions will be well received.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do things that you enjoy and forego trying to make plans for everyone around you. You can't please everyone so it is best to please yourself today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be in a great frame of mind today. Your memory will be superb and your intuition will be dead-on. This will be a great day to talk to individuals who can provide you with valuable information.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be inclined to spend too much today. Take your time when making a decision. You will find yourself in a poor financial position if you listen to someone with a fast cash scheme.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will have to think twice before you deal with emotional issues. Personal dilemmas will be based on an unrealistic assessment of your situation.

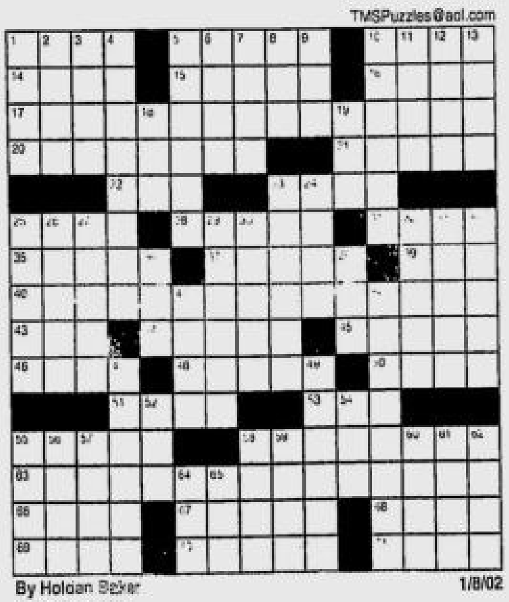
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have been letting stressful situations get to you. It's time to take a deep breath and change your way of thinking. If you are good to yourself, you will do what's necessary to get back on track.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You should make plans to socialize today. You will be in a creative mood, so pick up some supplies that you will require to follow through with your ideas.

Birthday Baby: You are lovable, sweet and generous with your help. You are diplomatic and know how to get your own way. You have a magical way of captivating the hearts of those you meet.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA

1/8/02

ACROSS
1 Mazar of "Civil Wars"
5 Morsels
10 Break sharply
14 Baldwin brother
15 "The Maltese Falcon" co-star
16 Oscar-winner Gooding
17 Tom
20 Table-setting element
21 Is affected by
22 "Norma __"
23 Greek portico
25 Stratagem
28 Mathematical relationship
31 Bungle
35 Open, as a bottle
37 Heavily built
39 Abbr. on many cameras
40 Dick
43 Guy's address
44 Angry look
45 Alaska resident
46 Cartel since 1961
48 In-person exams
50 Table scraps
51 Listen to
53 Letters of an off-road conveyance
55 Unmixed
58 Kind of community service
63 Harry
66 Golf gadgets
67 Asparagus unit
68 Programming repetition
69 Out of the wind
70 Works for
71 Lock maker

DOWN
1 Slightly wet
2 Israeli airline
3 Actor Lugosi
4 Ben and Jerry's product
5 Finger pointer
6 Small quantity
7 Jogger's gait
8 Slip up
9 In position
10 Distress call
11 Microwave?
12 Son of Eve
13 Picks up the tab
18 Financial guidance grp.
19 ET's vehicle
23 Gangster Bugsy
24 Bean curd
25 Rene of "Get Shorty"
26 Not with it
27 Frighten
29 On the plane
30 __ firma
32 Wedding-party member
33 Scorn
34 Guitar features
36 Thickset dog
38 Singer Sumac
41 __ gin fizz
42 Habitually dirty and unkempt
47 Monterey Jack or Roquefort
49 Woodland deities
52 Time of note
54 Part of a refrain
55 Sp. maiden
56 Command to Fido
57 Fencer's sword
58 __-Neisse line
59 __-Ude, Russia
60 Old World buffalo
61 Aloof
62 Flamboyant promotion
64 Hail a fly?
65 Clean-air watchdog grp.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	H	O	W		W	O	R	M		P	R	E	S	S
P	O	K	E		A	R	E	A		A	E	R	I	E
A	U	R	A		L	I	A	R		T	W	I	C	E
T	R	A	V	E	L	E	R	S	C	H	E	C	K	S
			E	V	E	N			R	O	D			
L	E	D		A	T	T	I	M	E	S		A	N	T
I	L	I	A	D			D	E	E		A	L	O	E
P	A	S	S	E	N	G	E	R	P	I	G	E	O	N
I	T	C	H		E	P	A			N	O	R	S	E
L	E	O		C	H	A	S	T	E	N		T	E	T
			P	O	R			A	G	E	E			
R	I	D	E	R	U	N	I	V	E	R	S	I	T	Y
O	C	E	A	N		A	R	E	S		S	O	H	O
P	O	N	C	E		P	A	R	T		E	W	E	R
E	N	T	E	R		A	N	N	S		S	A	N	K

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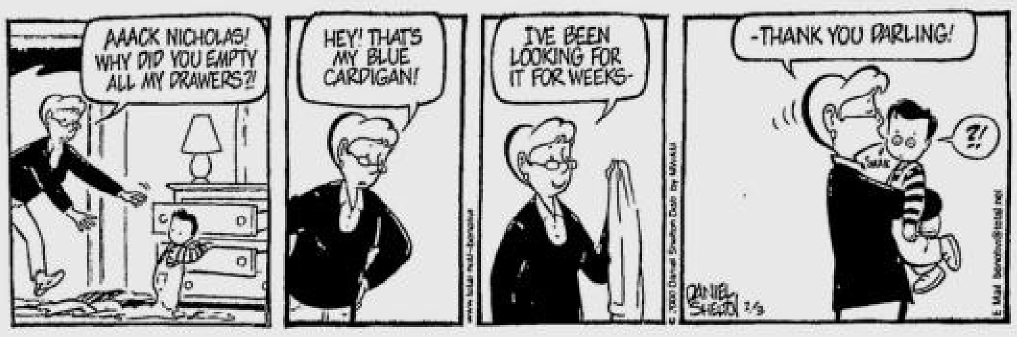
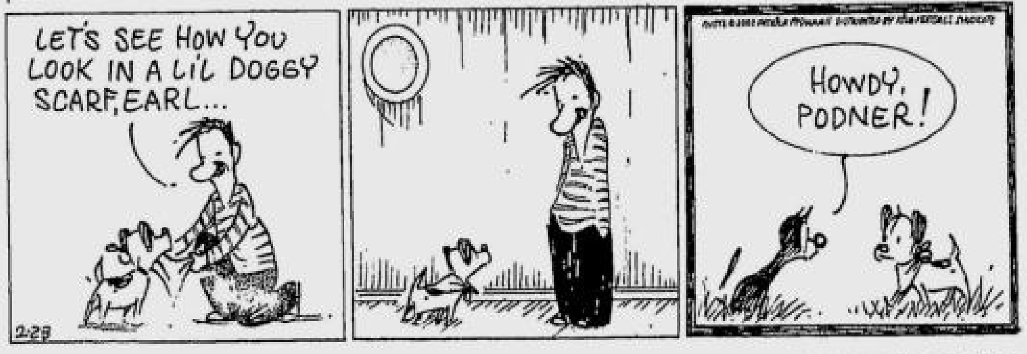
1/8/02

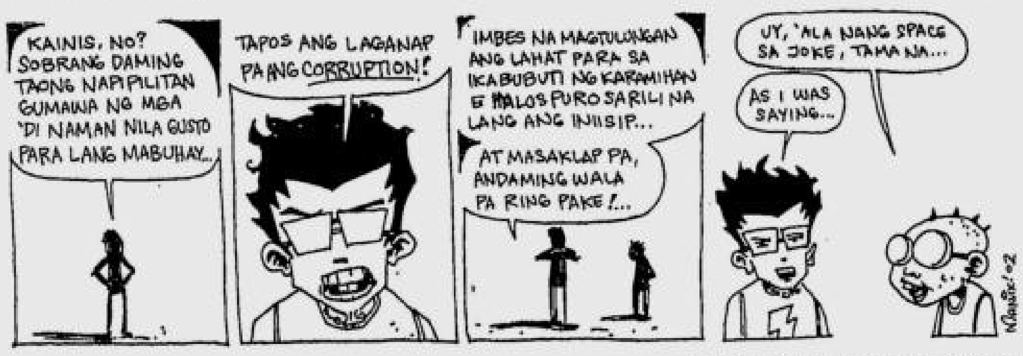
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAACK NICHOLAS! WHY DID YOU EMPTY ALL MY DRAWERS?!
HEY! THAT'S MY BLUE CARDIGAN!
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR IT FOR WEEKS-
-THANK YOU DARLING!
?!
DANIEL SHELTON 2/3

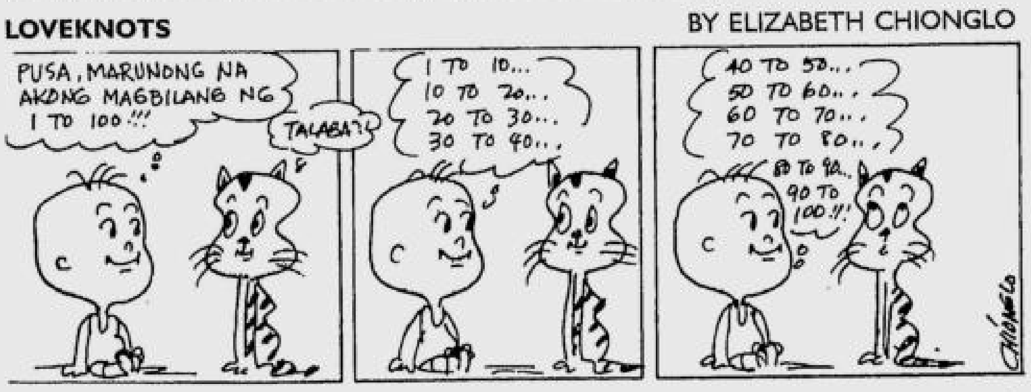
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LET'S SEE HOW YOU LOOK IN A LI'L DOGGY SCARF, EARL...
2-23
HOWDY, PODNER!

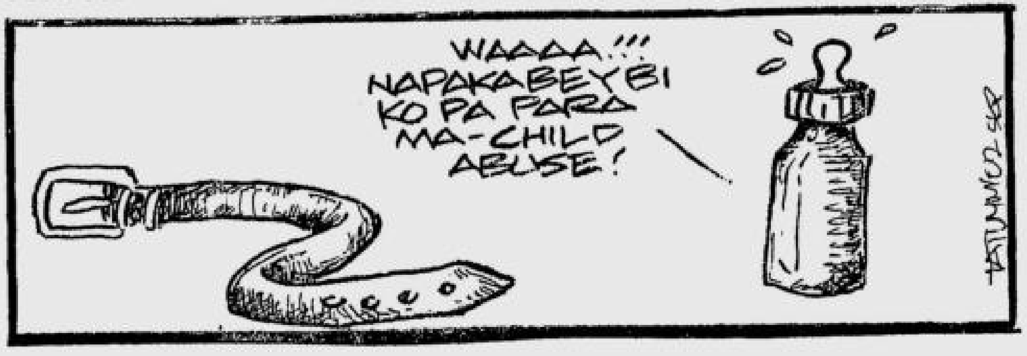
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


KAINIS, NO? SOBRANG DAMING TAONG NAPIPILITAN GUMAWA NG MGA 'DI NAMAN NILA GUSTO PARA LANG MABUHAY...
TAPOS ANG LAGANAP PA ANG CORRUPTION!
IMBES NA MAGTULUNGAN ANG LAHAT PARA SA IKABUBUTI NG KARAMIHAN E HALOS PURO SARILI NA LANG ANG INIISIP...
AT MASAKLAP PA, ANDAMING WALA PA RING PAKE!...
UY, 'ALA NANG SPACE SA JOKE, TAMA NA...
AS I WAS SAYING...
MANIX '02

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, MARUNONG NA AKONG MAGBILANG NG 1 TO 100!!!
TALAGA?
1 TO 10... 10 TO 20... 20 TO 30... 30 TO 40...
40 TO 50... 50 TO 60... 60 TO 70... 70 TO 80... 80 TO 90... 90 TO 100!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WAAAA!!! NAPAKABEYBI KO PA PARA MA-CHILD ABUSE!
TATUM'02

Grandson probes Dietrich's soul, roots in new film

By Emma Thomasson

BERLIN—Marlene Dietrich was more than just a diva, she had deep convictions that drove her to turn against her beloved homeland Germany, her grandson said on Sunday as he presented a new film of her life.

Strict German upbringing

J. David Riva said he had tried to go beyond the Hollywood glitz and glamour and show what made his grandmother tick, from her strict German upbringing to the role she played in World War II rallying Allied troops.

"After about 50 documentaries on Marlene Dietrich this is the first time we have explored her soul," Riva told a news conference after his "Marlene Dietrich—Her Own Song" opened at the film festival in the city of her birth, Berlin.

"The motivation was to try and understand a little bit more of her character and try and find a window into her soul rather than just the dresses and the love affairs."

Riva, 40, who was born in New York, said some Americans did not even realize that the husky-voiced blonde bombshell was originally German and many were unaware of her anti-Nazi campaigning in the war.

Pragmatic

As her grandson, Riva said he experienced Dietrich's German character traits at first hand. "There wasn't a lot of grandmothering. She was very pragmatic. She was a Berliner and thought things should be done properly."

"I never saw her cry unless she was on stage. She was not an emotional woman. She was very Prussian," he said.

Born Marie Magdalene Dietrich on Dec. 27, 1901, the actress took on her famous stage name at aged 20. Her big break came in 1930 with her performance as a Berlin cabaret singer in Josef von Sternberg's "The Blue Angel."

Riva's documentary mixes hitherto unpublished home videos from Dietrich's private estate and newly discovered archive footage with clips from Dietrich's many films and interviews with friends, family and admirers.

Turbulent relationship

The film explores Dietrich turbulent relationship with Germany, from the early death of her Prussian officer father, to attempts by Hitler's Nazis to lure her back home form Hollywood, to her gaining US citizenship in 1937.

Cutting off ties with her homeland was not easy. As she helped raise money for the Allied war effort, she wrote: "I go on tours to help pay for bombs, bombs that will fall on Berlin where my mother is still living."

Dietrich took in numerous European artists fleeing Nazi persecution and not only performed for Allied troops on the front line, but also recorded songs and messages in her mother tongue to try to demoralize German soldiers.

DIETRICH. "In my heart, I am still German."

Swapping evening gowns for army fatigues, Dietrich was one of the first civilians to enter defeated Germany and one of the film's most moving sections shows the first time she sees her mother again in the ruins of Berlin.

After the war she broke off ties with her sister who collaborated with the Nazis, a fact Riva only discovered while working on the film. "I now have 15 relatives in Germany, I didn't have three years ago," she said.

Dubbed a traitor who "consorted with Jews in Hollywood" by the Nazis, Dietrich still sparks bitterness from some Germans for her wartime role. Returning home for a concert in 1960, she was greeted by scattered protests and a hostile press.

Close friends

She never traveled to Germany again. As her looks faded, she spent the last 16 years of her life a recluse in Paris, declining even to see close friends like German actress Hildegard Knef, who died herself a few weeks ago.

"I asked her 'why don't you let me in, our friendship isn't based on appearances.' But she said, 'I don't want to' and I never asked her again," Knef says in the film.

Dietrich died in 1992 and was buried in Berlin. The film ends with locals showering her coffin with flowers.

Riva said Dietrich would be delighted that his film was showing at the annual Berlinale film festival, centered on a cinema complex around a Marlene Dietrich Square.

Dietrich has come home: "In my heart I am still German, German in my soul, wherever that soul now is," she says in the film. ***Reuters***

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Martin Nievera keeps late-night show on ABS-CBN

By Edmund L. Sicam

MARTIN Nievera, who only weeks ago thought he was losing his late-night show on ABS-CBN, is staying on, after all. The singer got the good news from the big man himself, Freddie Garcia, during a surprise birthday party for Martin recently. Since he was going abroad for a concert series, Martin had to tape some 15 episodes in two days.

We got confirmation from the singer himself hours before he was going to perform at the Clark Field Amphitheater in Pampanga for "Martin XV4Ever." This was the last in the series of shows produced this year by the Crossover radio network.

Publicity materials hype Martin's live shows as awesome and always well-attended. It's not all hype. His Clark Field performance attracted audiences from neighboring Angeles City and San Fernando as well as Metro Manila and the Amphitheater which seats 8,000 was filled to capacity with screaming fans.

The show could not start on time because the audience had to be taken in shuttle buses to the venue. After a half-hour wait, everyone came alive as Martin appeared onstage.

There are many singers who possess great voices but fall flat in live concerts. It takes more than a good voice to keep an audience happy. Martin is one of the few singers we know who has a good voice and can entertain his audience as well. With the help of a production staff that comes up with the pyrotechnics, a well-designed stage and great sounds, Martin manages to keep his listeners spellbound all night. He knows exactly which button to push. It doesn't matter what songs he sings, old ones or even unfamiliar ones, the crowd still breaks into wild applause.

We still marvel at how this 40-year-old artist manages to attract swooning females in his audience. A teenybopper actually got past security and went onstage to kiss him. Another fan brought a birthday cake to present to Martin.

While some singers are content with staying onstage, Martin's staff constructed a track that brought him closer to his audience, even those in the cheaper seats.

Special guest that night was Zsa Zsa Padilla, who got a wild reception, something we had never seen in Zsa Zsa's previous concerts. The show also marked Zsa Zsa's last public appearance since she has to rest her vocal chords upon her doctor's advice.

NIEVERA. Crowd drawer.

From modeling to acting

Modeling has opened doors for "Breakfast" host Angel Jacob since she did a Palmolive commercial 12 years ago. She has been hosting her early-morning show on Studio 23 for three years and the show has managed to stay on the air despite strong competition from the frontrunners, ABS-CBN's "Ala Singko Y Medya" and GMA's "Unang Hirit."

Just recently she ventured into movies, doing a small role in "Ikaw Lamang, Hanggang Ngayon" playing one of Richard Gomez's many girlfriends. She appeared only in a few scenes but she impressed us with her breezy performance. Usually, the other woman in a movie is your stereotypical "*masungit*" person whom viewers love to hate. In the movie, however, Angel showed that even if Richard dumped her for Regine, she would definitely get another man as dashing as Richard.

In the movie, she plays a golfing enthusiast so we asked her if she played golf. She said she used to but now, she's into boxing just like Judy Ann Santos and Joyce Jimenez. She says it's an empowering hobby and looks forward to going to the gym everyday for her training session. She hasn't actually faced an opponent in the ring in the last six months, but she goes three rounds with her trainer.

Why boxing? She says her grandparents are ardent boxing fans so she's been watching boxing bouts on TV ever since she can remember. Her folks are great fans of boxing legend Muhammad Ali, so expect her to watch the movie "Ali" which stars Will Smith.

Next week, she has another short role in Star Cinema's "Got 2 Believe" which stars Rico Yan and Claudine Barretto. She actually did this movie before doing "Ikaw Lamang" but the Richard-Regine movie was released two weeks earlier.

We look forward to the day when she will land even meatier roles and join former models who have done well in show business.

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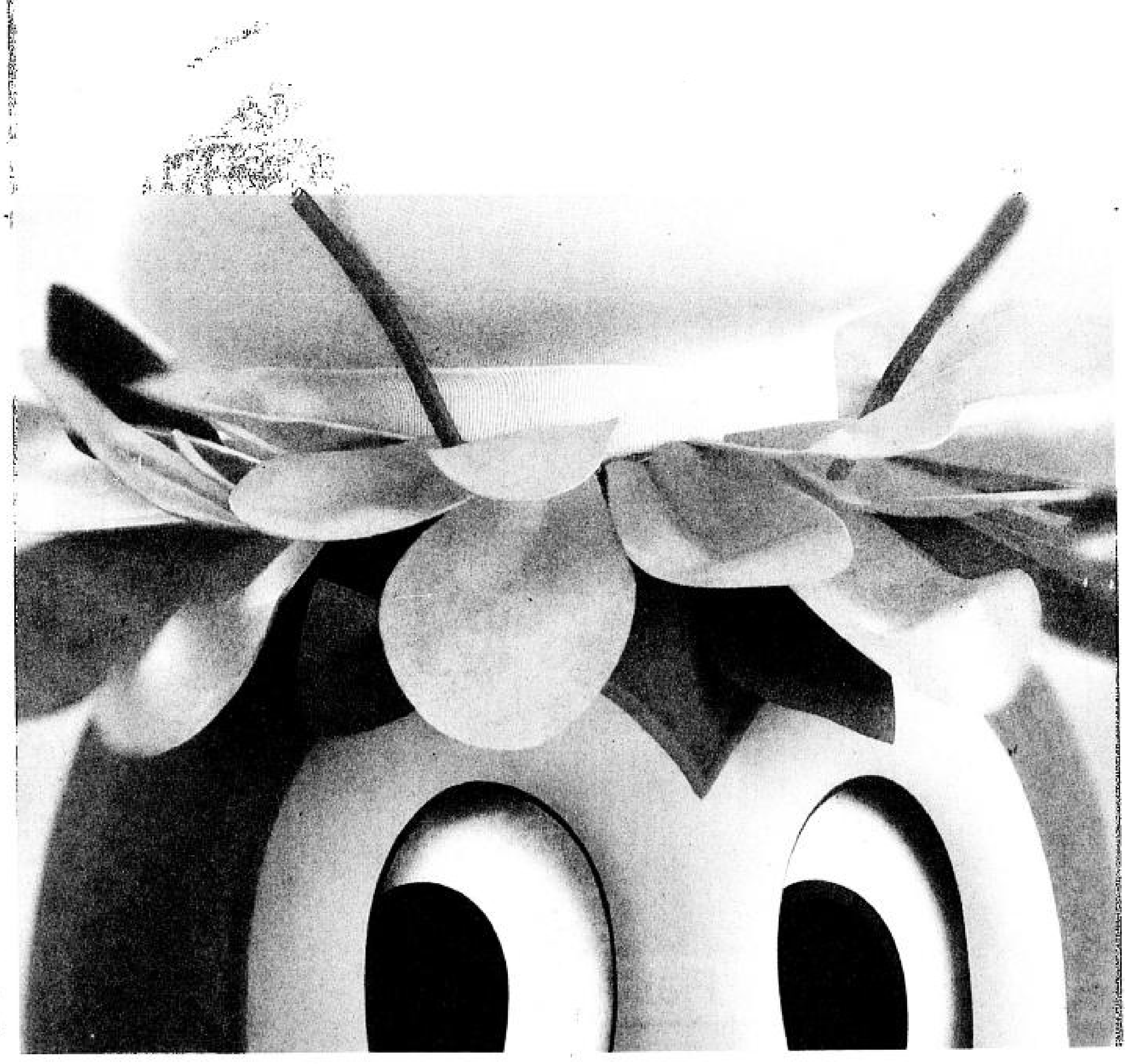

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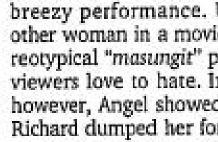

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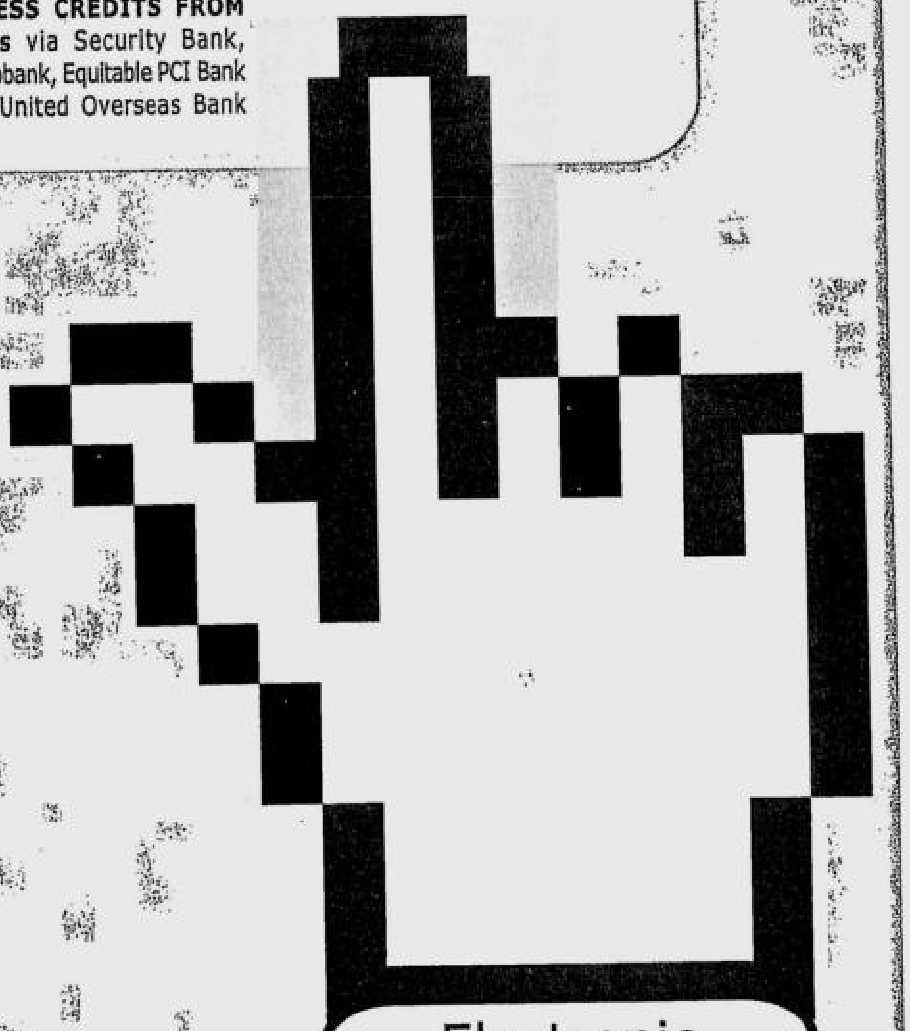

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SATURDAY Special

Sheila Francisco garners glowing reviews in London

By Nestor U. Torre

FRANCISCO. A hefty talent--in every sense.

LET'S hear it for Sheila Francisco, aFilipina singer-actress who's garnering glowing reviews in London for her showstopping performance as Bloody Mary in the Royal National Theater's revival of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein's musical, "South Pacific."

Standout

What makes Sheila a standout performer is her combination of strong, high singing voice, feisty acting and ample girth, a unique mix of attributes that cannot be ignored.

Get a load of these raves:

Variety magazine: "In interpretative terms, the show's primary coup rests with the hefty (in every sense) Bloody Mary of Sheila Francisco, who positions the role well away from the roly-poly comic relief presented by Bertice Reading in the show's last London revival... There is a revelatory urgency to the 'Bali Hai' that this island mercenary sings, subsequently delivered as an act of near-desperation."

The Independent: "The most prominent female is the fat souvenir-seller Bloody Mary, whom Sheila Francisco makes a real, full-blooded woman instead of the usual grinning cartoon."

Highlight

Footloose: "The highlight of the show is Sheila Francisco's gleefully opportunistic Bloody Mary, a round ball of a woman who can easily outfleece the troops, but proves powerless against the racism which threatens her matchmaking plans."

The Evening Standard: "Sheila Francisco is a comic and pathetic dynamo of emotions in good voice."

The Telegraph: "Sheila Francisco, as wide as she is tall, offers great entertainment value as Bloody Mary, ...and steals the show."

You can't get better notices than those! And to think that, when she was performing in musicals here, Sheila was appreciated but not exactly raved about. Well, it just goes to show that the melding of a fine performer and the perfect role for her can spell memorable theater magic.

Plum role

Of course, everybody wants to know how Sheila landed the plum role—in the Royal National Theater's production, no less. Here's the lowdown, thanks to the British Council:

The musical's director, the esteemed Trevor Nunn, had been auditioning Javanese and Maori talents to play Bloody Mary in the States, but had come up with nothing. Then, he was faxed blurred photographs of Sheila and got an audio tape of her singing "Bali Hai" for a local corporate party.

Very interested, he instructed the RNT to e-mail Sheila to fly to New York that same day to audition for the role. That didn't work out, so Sheila was instead instructed to fly to London two days later.

Audition

With a lot of help from the British Embassy and the British Council, Sheila flew for 20 hours (with stopovers) and went straight to her audition with Trevor Nunn. He was bowled over and cast her in the plum character role.

After overcoming a lot of red tape to secure her work permit and approval from Actors Equity, Sheila went from rigid rehearsals to triumphant performances, and the rest is, as they say, history.

"South Pacific" will be playing at the Olivier Theater in London until April 27. After that, it's likely that Sheila will be snapped up for another production in London. The literally huge musical-theater talent from the Philippines is on her way! The irony, of course, is that it had to take a Trevor Nunn to see what she really had to give.

(Editor's note: Sheila may have played mostly supporting roles when she was performing in the Philippines, but she caught the eye of Saturday Special, which showcased her huge talent in July 29, 2000 with the special feature below.

We're reprinting it to give readers a clearer idea of how Sheila honed her talent to be up to the challenge even of world-class musical productions like the RNT's "South Pacific"):

Sheila Francisco proves that big is truly beautiful

By Andy Bais

SHIELA Francisco would have loved it if she were thinner. The truth is, she is still trying to lose weight, but apparently, she is "healthy" the way she is.

Consolation

Her consolation is, except for hypertension, she hasn't gotten seriously ill. She can do whatever "normal sized" people do-"I'm light on my feet and I dance a lot. *Makikipaglabanan ako sa* dance floor with anybody for the longest time!" she jokingly dares.

Shiela has been involved with theater (as actor or on the production side) for the past 10 years. But she can't recall an instance when she felt discriminated against because of her size.

"I get to do roles that other people can't play. Of course, I also want to portray other parts, but I can't do them because I'm **big**. There are limitations, but *ganoon din naman sa mga payat.*

"But I'd like to see the day when *wala akong* limitation so I can do anything onstage," she exclaims.

Shiela never dreamed of a

SHEILA/ P. D2

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ALBUM REVIEW

Big things come from small packages

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

Michelle Branch
'The Spirit Room'
Warner Music

THIS ALBUM is a must-have. It's pop rock but it's good to your eardrums. It's not noise but tunes filled with inspiration and enthusiasm.

"Everywhere" is about seeing beauty in everything. It indirectly inspires the listener to appreciate the small things in life because big things can come from small packages.

Being different

"You Get Me" is about being different but still being accepted by the people who love and understand you the most. It's also about being true and honest to yourself.

"All You Wanted" is a cool song. It's about being there when people need you the most. The lyrics "so lonely inside, so busy out there and all you wanted was somebody who cares" hit home. Everyone needs somebody to care for him or her.

Dreaming

"You Set Me Free" is about dreaming and holding on when things get tough. The lyrics "you're in my heart, the only light that shines there in the dark. Coz I wanted to fly so you gave your wings" also remind us that God guides us wherever we are.

"If Only She Knew" is about loving someone who doesn't love you anymore. Michelle is talking to the present girlfriend of her ex-boyfriend. Nope Michelle is not being bitter about her loss. She just quietly watches her world disappear and crumble.

"Here With Me" is honest and full of mush. It's about letting go, about fear and "dying a little" because you want to make someone happy even if it spells grief and pain for you. It's about acceptance and understanding.

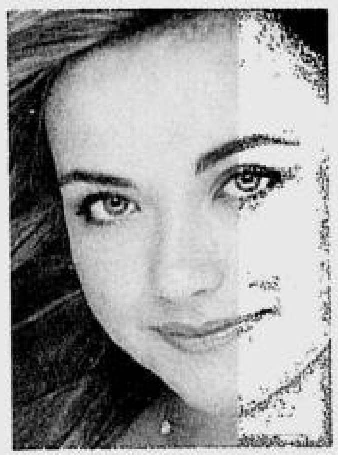
Listening to these songs gives you the impression that Michelle is an old soul. Her lyrics are full of wisdom even if she's only 17 years old. Michelle derives inspiration from the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin. She admits that most of her songs are created from her dreams.

BRANCH. Inspiration and enthusiasm.

Charlotte Church
'Enchantment'
Sony Music

Charlotte Church is the foreign counterpart of Lani Misalucha and Regine Velasquez, though her style is not pop. Her songs have a mystical and operatic feel. Yup, her voice pitch is high but it's not irritating. She sings like a nightingale. This selection of songs comes from Broad way musicals ("West Side Story," "Carmen," "Carousel" and "South Pacific."

"Tonight" showcases her vocal range. She sings as if there's no tomorrow because her voice simply soars. She puts life and meaning into each word. Uplifting strings add an ethereal feel.



CHURCH. Mystical and operatic feel.

Drums and strings

Charlotte gives "Bali Hai" from "South Pacific" an operatic twist. The original version was better but adding drums and strings to the instrumental accompaniment in her version is a definite improvement.

"Papa Can You Hear Me" is full of emotion and the words tug at your heartstrings. Charlotte claims in an interview that this song is a favorite of her dad, so she has included it in her album.

"The Flower Duet" seems to be vocally taxing. This is one of the good songs in the album because of its wistful tone balanced with a contemporary feel.

Celtic song

"Carrichfergus" is a Celtic song with an upbeat vibe. She changes her vocal style to exude funkiness and energy.

"From My First Moment" is classy and powerful. The flamenco guitar and gypsy violin give a rustic feel to the song. "The Water is Wide" is another Celtic song. Its melancholic accompaniment complements Charlotte's haunting voice. It's another tragic love song.

"The Laughing Song" is pleasantly amusing because she plays an outlandish character telling a story.

"If I Loved You" has soft "lullaby" lyrics which relax the heart and mind.

What it takes to win on 'The Weakest Link'

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

ON A difficulty scale of one to 10, with 10 being the highest, Tinay Vitancol judged the questions to be a hard but manageable seven. "I felt panicky when Edu asked the question about the actor in that Sharon Cuneta movie. I was screaming inside my head – *di ko alam! di ko alam!* I said 'pass,' of course, and then he goes and says that the answer is Edu Manzano. *Hay!* That was funny!"

After that particular round, Edu reproached her for not knowing the answer and Tinay inadvertently insulted him with her meek reply – "*Baka hindi ko na po kasi naabutan.*" That elicited a roar of laughter from the folks clustered around our TV set on Feb. 1.

Speed

When asked how she coped with the speed of the questions, she thought a while and said, "Well, *nire*-rehearse *ko muna talaga sa utak ko bago ko sinasabi.* You blank out at first but it gets easier when you get the hang of it. *Yun nga lang nako*-conscious *ka sa* length of time it takes, *kasi* you have your teammates and the time limit to consider." Sometimes, she says, she had to hold herself back from shouting out the answer when a teammate would be floundering for one.

"*Sumablay talaga ako sa* voting-off," she says regretfully. "The people I'd vote wouldn't get voted-off and so they remembered that I voted them *at gumanti sila*. I remember I voted-off the person next to me because I was so annoyed that she wasn't able to answer a simple arithmetic question. She didn't know Mendeleyev's first name, either!"

Tinay, with all the assurance of a Chemical Engineering major (who's likely to graduate on-time, too, we might add), knows of course that it is Dimitri.

"*Gusto ko sanang makalaban yung taga*-Ateneo," she says. "I felt it would've been more of a challenge, but he got voted off earlier and so my opponent during the head-to-head was none other than the person I had been voting off from the start!" Needless to say, Tinay triumphed in that particular skirmish—though not, she admits, that easily.

VITANCOL. Added confidence.

Answer

"You know that they cut certain portions? I had about four sudden deaths," she says with a sheepish smile. "They only showed two, *di ba?*" She bemoans her answer to the question of how many rings there are in the Olympic symbol ("I was thinking of ven diagrams so I said three. Stupid!") and the time she took to answer another question ("I thought for what felt like 10 minutes. *Nahihiya na nga ako kay* Edu, but I wasn't going to give up. I'd gone that far already and I was determined to win!").

Tinay hasn't gotten her check yet ("60 days *pa*"), but she plans to spend only very little of it. "I'd like to buy some things that I couldn't buy before—*simple lang*, like a guitar and a new bed to replace the old one at home."

The youngest in a brood of six, she also hopes to assist her widowed mother and, displaying a great deal of foresight, she says she'll put away the rest "for the future."

"You can never be sure whether you'll be able to get a job at once after graduation," she explains. "I just want to be prepared for that."

Tinay emerged from her "Weakest Link" experience not only with a hefty check but, she says, with a lot of added confidence, as well. "*Iniisip nila na 'pag babae ka, mahina ka.* But no, it's all about what you have up in your head, and about strategy, of course."

Also, she says, she'll now be kinder to the game show contestants she sees on TV. "I've been there and now I understand why they can seem so stupid sometimes. It's just different when it's you under those lights!"

Sheila Francisco garners glowing reviews . . .

(From page D1)

career in musical theater. She was happy with her job as an advertising executive. In fact, she held on to that job for 15 years, producing commercials, etc. But she admits that she's always loved to sing.

Band

She was part of a band called Off Duty, composed of advertising executives like her who performed during their off hours. "We didn't care whether we were paid or not. We were very established corporate people with a common passion for music," she beams.

The band performed in corporate shows and even did concerts. Sheila was one of the vocalists, specializing in the R&B and Motown sound and partial to Aretha Franklin's songs.

When the group disbanded, she concentrated on her advertising job and she confessed not being able to sing for five years! It was also at this time that she became a born-again Christian. Her only exposure to constant singing then was when she listened to the choir in church singing praise and worship hymns.

It was then she realized that she wanted to sing for the Lord. "That became my personal prayer, *sa loob ko lang yon. Ang sarap palang bumanat ng kanta kapag* gospel songs!" she enthuses. Little did she know that she would do just that when she joined theater.

Sheila credits Freddie Santos for her entry into the theater world in 1991. Freddie was one of her clients in advertising, and obviously the director in him saw her potential for a career in musical theater. It also helped that Freddie watched her perform with the band in one of their shows. Apparently, he was impressed with what he saw.

Reluctant stage actress

She was a reluctant stage actress because she had no theater experience, not even in school. The closest things to it were her "solo performances" when she was still a kid: "*Naalala ko, maarte talaga ako.* I would make up stories and act them out myself. I made my sister sit down and watch me perform. *Binihisan ko ang* lampstand *at yun ang ka*-partner *ko*," she recalls.

> The experience of performing live before an audience thrilled her no end, and she fell in love with what she was doing

"Joseph, The Dreamer," the musical produced by Trumpets and written and directed by Santos, was her first theater exposure. "Apparently, there was no role for me in that musical. Freddie created a part for me. When that happened, I told myself this was really a calling from God! My personal prayer to sing for Him finally came true," Shiela gushes.

Then she appeared in other stage productions, among them "First Name," another Trumpets production and "Noli Me Tangere" for Tanghalang Pilipino. She was also exposed to the concert scene. She did backup for Gary Valenciano and Regine Velasquez, among other singers.

Difficult decision

The experience of performing live before an audience thrilled her no end, and she fell in love with what she was doing. Eventually, she left advertising for good. It was a difficult decision to make. It took her two years to decide, plus a lot of prayers. After all, she was leaving a life that gave her everything.

But, when she was in advertising, it was as if she always needed more. When she left, she just had to save up a little and live a more subdued life. She discovered that she had what she needed all the time! God always provided for her needs and she's been fulfilled and happy since then.

Sheila went fulltime with Trumpets and, for a time, sat as one of the group's board members. Trumpets is into ministry and makes sure that God's Word is spread through the arts-theater, concerts, etc. Sheila, now a regular member, also busies herself as one of the group's ministers. She has ministered in Hong Kong, Japan and Malaysia.

Every summer, she teaches in the Trumpets-sponsored Playshop. She's also in demand for corporate shows and, along with her sister, manages a small recording studio, Sound Design.

At present, she's busy rehearsing for "The Little Mermaid," the latest Trumpets production, where she essays the role of Crustacea. "*Salbahe na naman ako dito*, but more scheming and manipulative compared to the white witch I played in 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,'" she says.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM FEB. 23 - MARCH 1

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	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 Final Drive 6:30 Auto Review 7:00 Barcelona Battle of the Gold Medalists 9:00 Fox News 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Auto Focus 12:00 Fox News	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Super S 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night Specials *Equinox*	5:30 Pokemon 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Special Unit II 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *X-static* 11:00 PGMA	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX Sampler	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Kevin Bacon* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! Special *2002 Academy Awards Nominations* 11:00 David Letterman
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 NBA 11:00 Business & Leisure 12:00 Fox News	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price Is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *American Music Awards 2002 Part 2* 11:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Kl 8:00 Daddy Di Do Du 9:00 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Where in Time Is Carmen San Diego 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *The Preacher's Wife* 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Murder in Small town X 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Dallas* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Dynasty* 10:00 E! Special *2001 Golden Hanger Awards* 11:00 60 Minutes
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Fox News 10:30 Unlimited Diving 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Touched By An Angel 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Arliss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:00 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Travel Time	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals *John Garfield* 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild On *Bali*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Oka Tokat 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	4:00 PBL 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Rajo Laurel	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 The Extremist	8:00 Habang May Buhay 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Storytellers 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Popular 8:30 The Others 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11'30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Greg Kinnear* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Goerge Clooney*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Whattamen 9:30 Attagirl 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Private Conversation	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Friends 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Philippines Most Wanted	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Level 9 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:00 Behind The Music 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:00 Primetime Classics 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Jungle*
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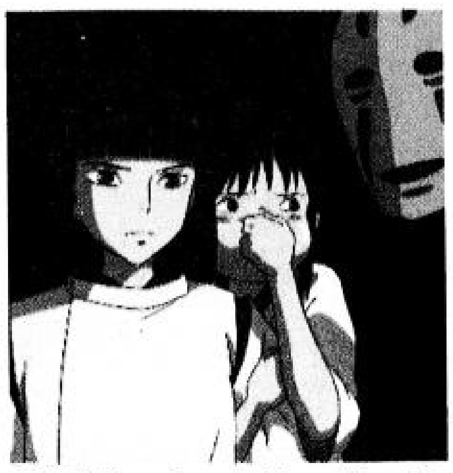
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Concert at the Park 12:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:00 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 Largo 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	8:00 Habang May Buhay 9:00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Halo-Halo 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Survivor 8:30 Mortal Combat 9:30 On Grow Up! 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *South Seas* 12:00 Talk Soup

'Bloody Sunday,' Japanese cartoon share top Berlin prize

By Erik Kirschbaum

"BLOODY SUNDAY." Golden Bear award for best film .


A SCENE from Japanese Hayao Miyazaki's animation, "Spirited Away."

BERLIN—A dramatization of the 1972 "Bloody Sunday" massacre in Northern Ireland and the Japanese animated fantasy "Spirited Away" shared the Golden Bear award for best film at the Berlin Film Festival on Sunday.

Halle Berry won the Silver Bear for best actress in the bleak American death row love story "Monster's Ball."

British director Paul Greengrass's "Bloody Sunday" portrays in near-documentary style the day British paratroopers shot dead 13 civil rights marchers in Londonderry 30 years ago, an event that inspired Irish rock group U2's "Sunday, Bloody Sunday."

Goblins and gods

But the judges also loved Hayao Miyazaki's "Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi" (Spirited Away), a cartoon feature about a young girl's adventures in a land of goblins and gods, and decided to share the Berlinale's top award between the two films.

The jury's president, Indian director Mira Nair, said the judges split the Golden Bear because "the more the merrier."

Twenty-three movies making world or international debuts had competed for honors during the 12-day Berlinale, considered one of the top European festivals after Cannes and alongside Venice.

Berry secured her Silver Bear with a forceful performance as a black woman finding love with Billy Bob Thornton's white, racist death-row prison guard in the American south.

Divergent paths

France's Jacques Gamblin took the Silver Bear for best actor in "Laissez-Passer" (Safe Conduct), exploring the divergent paths of two French filmmakers under Nazi German occupation.

Georgian Otar Iosseliani won the Silver Bear for best director with "Lundi Matin" (Monday Morning), a French film about two men fed up with the world and unable to face another week.

A star-studded French production, "8 Femmes" (8 Women), that features Catherine Deneuve in a light-hearted murder mystery was many critics' favorite. The judges awarded it a Silver Bear for "individual artistic contribution" to the "ensemble of actresses."

The Silver Bear for music went to Antoine Duhamel for "Laissez-Passer."

Nair called "Bloody Sunday" an "extraordinarily authentic film" that should contribute to understanding the atrocity.

Made for the most part with shaky hand-held cameras, Greengrass's work attempts to show what happened in Londonderry 30 years ago from the viewpoints of both the British soldiers and the Northern Irish marchers.

Hail of gunfire

Thirteen people were killed on the day, another was fatally wounded and a further 14 were injured in a hail of gunfire lasting about 15 minutes. The army said its troops were defending themselves from guerrillas but no weapons were found.

The mayhem helped turn a simmering feud between Catholics and Protestants into the "Troubles," three decades of urban warfare in the British province that has left 3,600 dead.

The film, also an award winner at the Sundance Film Festival last month, focuses on the stories of two men—the charismatic Protestant civil rights leader Ivan Cooper, who tries to prevent the march turning to violence, and a 17-year-old Catholic rebel.

Miyazaki's animated adventure broke box office records back home in Japan, where 21 million people saw it, and enthralled audiences on its international debut in the German capital.

Reuters

'Magandang Umaga Bayan' launched

By Remy M. Umerez

BROADCAST journalist Julius Babao has good reasons to be happy. The hardworking host of "Talk TV" returns to early-morning television with the recent launching of "Magandang Umaga Bayan," a new, "friendly" newscast from ABS-CBN.

BABAO. Homecoming of sorts.

Homecoming

The one-hour program is incorporated in "Alas Singko Y Media," the show which Julius used to anchor with Tintin Bersola. The new newscast, which Julius describes as a "show within a show," has a completely different format. It is also a homecoming of sort of Julius.

"I missed my newscasting days because they were totally different from my hosting chores on 'Talk TV.' News is my orientation and the training I got from Noli de Castro is an important chapter in my life," Julius says.

The best thing that happened to Julius's broadcasting career was anchoring "Alas Singko Y Media." He became a household name and gained respect and credibility with his way of delivering the news.

When he sent feelers about his desire to return to his first love, Ms Arlene Castro called for a meeting and lost no time in securing his services for the new show "Magandang Umaga Bayan."

Julius co-anchors the program with Erwin Tulfo and Cheryl Cosim.

Live interviews

"Magandang Umaga Bayan" offers straightforward, honest and balanced reporting. By the time "MUB" airs, the stories will have moved and developed from the night before. It will be strong on live interviews to capture developments in a story.

"MUB" will also dish out entertaining and informative feature stories. The show biz portion will not only be intriguing but enlightening as well.

Julius assures us that their news will always be fresh, not old or rehashed. "You'd be surprised at the many things that occur after midnight," he says. "We have the best news reporters covering various beats. Since our viewers are people who wake up early to get ready for work and housewives who prepare breakfast, our treatment of the news is informative and easy to absorb."

Vision-enhancing exercises

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

HOW can we make our eyes strong and efficient? Dr. Gala makes important recommendations in his book, "Vision Training Programme":

Specific instructions

1. Generally, use glasses only when absolutely necessary to do the exercises. You want to extend your visual limits and make your eyes work on their own.

2. Make sure that you do the exercises in non-glaring, full light.

3. Whenever instructed to close one or both of the eyes, do so gently.

4. While doing an exercise, do not strain your eyes. You are striving for relaxed, responsible focal power. Do not struggle to accomplish the exercise because that is counterproductive.

5. Do not forget to rest your eyes after every exercise.

6. Generally speaking, early morning is the best time to perform exercises.

Here are some general exercises to help your eyes become strong:

Facial muscles

1. Open the mouth wide, bring the tongue out as much as possible and look upward. In this position, the facial muscles are stretched. Maintain this position of the face for 20 slow counts.

Then relax the facial muscles, withdraw the tongue, shut the mouth and rest the eyes by keeping them lightly closed for 20 seconds. Repeat six times. Gradually increase the number of repetitions to 10.

2. Contract firmly the muscles around the eyes, especially those of the eyelid, to create pressure on the eyeballs. (The facial expression would be likened to that of tasting sour vinegar.) Maintain the contraction for 10 slow counts. Finally, let the facial muscles go limp and slack for 20 counts. Repeat the exercise six times. Gradually increase the number to 10.

Head

3. Sit comfortably on a chair. Slowly bend the head forward as much as possible. Then bend the head backwards. Next, bend the head towards the right shoulder. Then bend it towards the left shoulder. Repeat the action 10 times.

Next, turn the head, as much as possible to the right, then turn it towards the left. Repeat the action 10 times. Finally, rotate the head in circles 20 times.

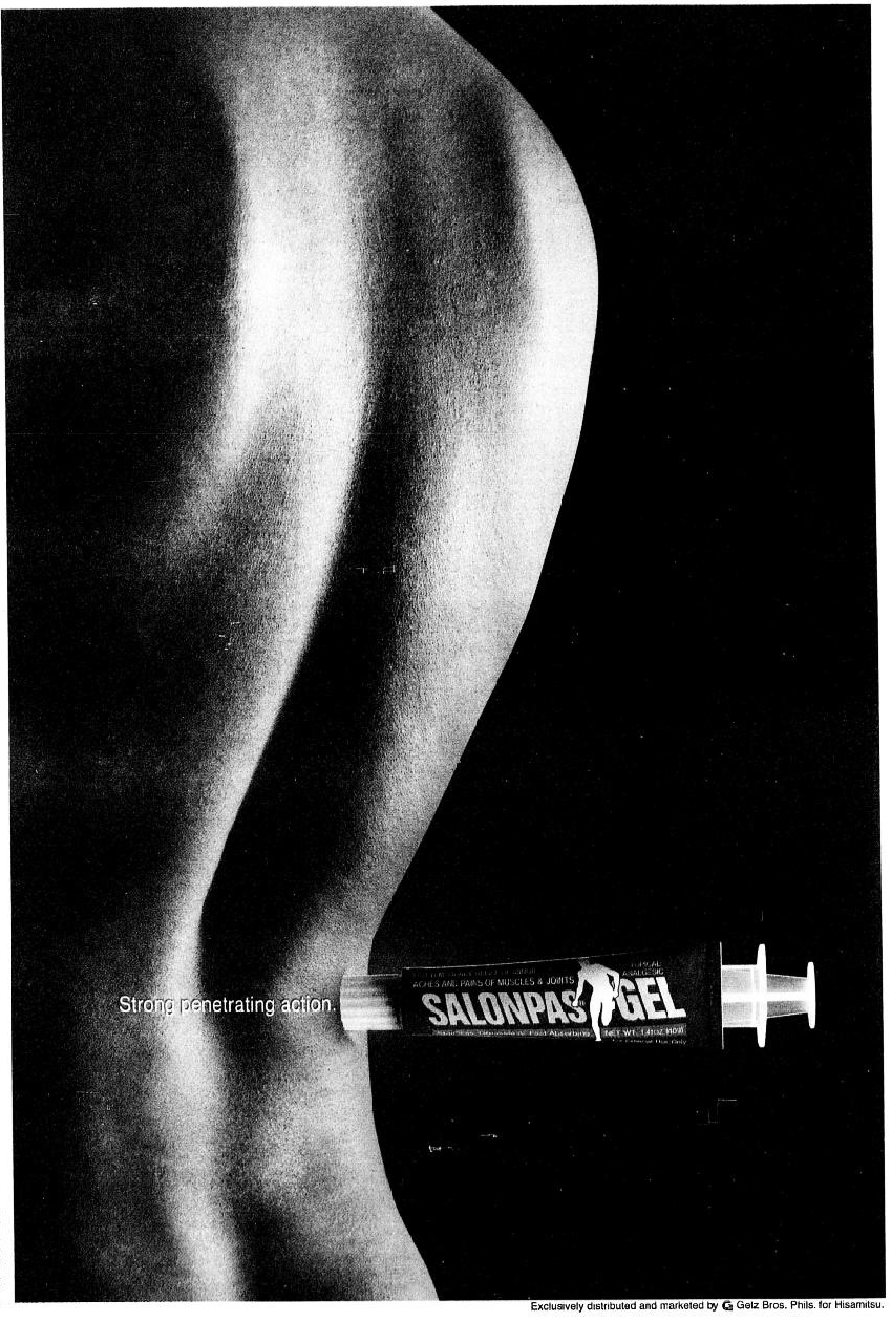
To avoid giddiness, rotate the head five times in one direction (clockwise), five times in the other direction (counterclockwise) and so on.

4. Sit comfortably on a chair. Extend your hand at an arm's length directly in front of your nose. Make a fist, excluding your thumb. Point your thumb upward so that you can view its nail.

Big arcs

Steady looking at the thumbnail, move your hand (in big arcs) in the following directions: horizontal line, vertical line, diagonal lines, and circular motions. Move your hand 10 times in either direction.

The movement should be smooth. Try not to move your body or head. Benefit: the muscles that move the eyes become more flexible and strong. Any eyestrain arising out of an imbalance of these muscles is relieved, since the eyes slowly learn to work in a more coordinated manner. Stiffness of the eye muscles, due to prolonged periods of tasks requiring concentration, is relieved.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Kevin Spacey takes acting break to foster new talents

By Clifford Coonan

BERLIN—Kevin Spacey may have attracted the attention of the big Hollywood studios with hits like "American Beauty" and "L.A. Confidential" but the US actor's first love remains independent, low-budget cinema.

Spacey recently said he was taking a break from acting to concentrate on his production company, which aims to foster young talents, in the hope that he can give something back to the cult and alternative cinema circuit that made him a star.

Latest movie

"Some of the best experiences I've ever had have been movies made very fast on a very low budget," Spacey said after a screening of his latest movie "The Shipping News" at the Berlin film festival.

"There is creative juice, when you don't have money to throw at every problem. And some extraordinary films have been made on a shoestring," he told a news conference alongside co-stars Cate Blanchett and director Lasse Halstrom.

"If I have been honored by being welcomed into this industry then it's my honor and my responsibility to send the elevator back down."

SPACEY. His roles are in independent cinema.

Roots

The 42-year-old star's roots are in independent cinema, getting his big break when he played the mysterious Kayzer Sose in Bryan Singer's slick film noir "The Usual Suspects."

Spacey's production company Triggerstreet is working on a number of projects which made it difficult for him to be away on location all the time, he said.

The actor, who also starred in "Swimming With Sharks," "Seven" and "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," said he firmly believed it was time for him to start paying back after the breaks he had been given by other industry figures.

Spacey also mentioned the late Jack Lemmon, who died last year, as one figure who encouraged him as a teenager and later gave him an important break on stage in Eugene O'Neill's "A Long Day's Journey Into Night" when Spacey was 26.

"He (Jack Lemmon) never changed his fundamental integrity and the world is a much sadder place without him."

In "The Shipping News," adapted from E. Annie Proulx's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, Spacey plays Quoyle, a misfit who is forced to move with his daughter Bunny to Newfoundland in a search for redemption—classic Spacey territory.

"I play people that I find interesting, complex and flawed. I hope to continue to find them," Spacey said.

Wild landscapes

The film, one of 23 that vied for the top prize at the Berlin Film Festival, was shot on location in the wild landscapes of Newfoundland and also stars Julianne Moore and Judi Dench.

Director Hallstrom, who also made "Chocolat," "What's Eating Gilbert Grape" and "My Life as a Dog," said it was the poetic elements in Proulx's novel which attracted him to the script.

"The novel has such a range, with drama, comedy, an element of poetry, mystery and magic," the Swedish director said.

Blanchett is barely recognizable as Quoyle's wife Petal Bear, a busty, black-haired nymphomaniac who makes his life a misery.

"I didn't recognize Cate when she came out of the dressing room," Spacey said.

"Where did those breasts come from?" quipped Blanchett, who played the less-curvaceous blonde lead in the Berlinale's opening film "Heaven."

Playing Quoyle was a challenge for Spacey as he is described in the book as a big, heavy man in contrast to the svelte actor.

"I didn't have time to put on the weight, I could only put on around 20 pounds. So instead we tried to describe the heaviness of what was weighing him down," Spacey said.

Reuters

London film season dramatizes plight of refugees

By Hannah Cowdy

LONDON—As millions of people flee war, repression and torture around the globe, moviemakers are telling their tales in a special London film season devoted to exile in the modern age.

Nine movies

From Britain to Iran, France to Guatemala, the United States to Italy, "Journeys of Hope" follows the plight of refugees and asylum seekers in a collection of nine movies.

The series includes Oscar-nominated "El Norte" and the Iranian tale "Djomeh," winner of the Camera d'Or first film award at the 2000 Cannes Film Festival. At times turbulent and terrifying, the journeys captured on film are also touched by humor and hope.

"More than ever before, the world is full of references to political, social or economic exile, to people who have had to leave their roots, their culture, their language and to seek a better world or a haven away from disaster," organizer Nitza Spiro told Reuters.

The season, organized by the independent Jewish educational charity Spiro Ark and the Everyman Cinema in Hampstead, north London, runs throughout March.

Spiro, director of Spiro Ark, said the aim of the film season was to challenge people to reassess their attitudes towards those in exile through culture, not politics.

Opinion

"The man in the street needs to be exposed to something which will make him re-evaluate his own opinion. People will come and they will not get a lesson in human rights—that is only indirect—they will get a cinematic experience. We want to build bridges through culture and not politics," she added.

For Sonja Linden, writer in residence at the Medical Foundation for the Victims of Torture, culture provides an opportunity for people to step into the shoes of others.

"Nobody really wants to leave their country of origin. You have to be pretty desperate to do that. Through film and stories, we can make people sympathize if not empathize with what people in exile have to go through," said Linden, whose group helps torture victims start afresh in exile.

Spiro said the Jewish history of being a displaced people, which is the focus of some of the films, provided an example of wandering, loss of home and hope and the challenge of rebuilding oneself, even when it takes more than one lifetime.

"The Jews had this experience many centuries before other people. I thought that experience relived over and over again with all the issues it raised could throw some light on the plight of refugees and the attitudes of societies or the governments that did or did not accept them," she added.

Spiro said that although the films detailed the difficulties faced by refugees in their search for a better life, there was always some light relief.

"In life as well as in film and literature, if you want to survive a trauma, you need to be able to laugh. Everyone knows about Jewish humor," she said.

Exile

Margaret Deriaz, a film programmer who helped pick the films, said "Journeys of Hope" gave a historical and global perspective to the issue of exile.

"It leads to the devastating realization that this has been around for a long time and the problem is getting worse. It is fascinating as well as terrifying that so many different cinemas in the world are tackling this topic. It really shows that this is one of the uppermost subjects in the global arena."

Deriaz said the films provided different perspectives—from the exiled person in "Djomeh", the tale of an Afghan refugee who falls in love with the daughter of a local Iranian shopkeeper, to the host country, as in "Code Unknown," set in multi-cultural France.

Britain has often been described as "soft" on refugees and asylum seekers, but has sought to crack down on an influx of immigrants amid criticism from human rights and lobby groups.

Humanity

"We need to give them the benefit of the doubt, treat them with humanity, don't put them in prison, don't assume they are going to abscond," said Linden, adding that national policies would fail as long as the international issues of human rights abuses, poverty and repressive governments were unresolved.

She said it was important to realize that people rarely left their home country willingly, and those that did go into exile were often a country's most talented people and as such would make a invaluable contributions to their new home.

Spiro said all too often the British media was awash with negative images of asylum seekers.

"Hatred and suspicion of "the other" is common . . . We tend to look at one bad example and throw a blanket stereotype across the whole group," she said.

"Only when we meet someone from a different background, eat with them, experience the richness of a different culture, will we realize we all have mutual concerns—tastes, fashions, despair, hopes and loves," she said. "What a boring place the world would be if we were all white Anglo Saxons." **Reuters**

Well-researched presentation details movie industry's woes

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME weeks ago, the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines came up with a well-researched Power Point presentation that convinced some senators and congressmen to come to the aid of the ailing Filipino film industry by initiating discussions on a bill creating the Film Development Board of the Philippines.

Legislators

What was it about the Foundation's presentation that convinced the legislators that the industry needed *and* deserved help now? Some highlights:

The presentation started by pointing out that the local film industry is vital to the country. Citing the findings of the PSRC's Project Atlantis study for the year 2000, it showed that Filipinos love going to the movies, perhaps more than any other nationality: 3.7 million Pinoys watch more than one film a week; 7.4 M see one film a week; 13.3 M watch two or three movies a month; 28.8 M see one film a month; 16 percent view from two to six movies a year, and 12 percent watch one film annually.

In addition, filmmaking creates a lot of jobs. The Filipino movie industry directly employs 1,800 people, with close to a million household members.

Contribution

Aside from their popularity and contribution to the country's economy, Filipino films have helped affirm our cultural identity, both here and abroad, with perceptive movies made by our National Artists for Film, Gerardo de Leon, Lamberto V. Avellana, Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal, and other directors.

Their contributions are deemed important, especially for the country's youth. The Philippine Youth Survey of the year 2000 has established that young Filipinos are searching for their roots and need to be inspired by the films they see.

Symptoms of the youth's malaise include minimal involvement in their communities, shallow appreciation of the country's history and heritage, and their perceived lack of patriotism and nationalism.

Vital role

Another study cited in the presentation was Unesco's National Cinematographic Study 2000, which advocate "the vital role of government in protecting artistic pluralism through the promotion of national cinematographic (film) images and foreign trade.

"Cultural goods are definitely not simply merchandise. Governments must assume the responsibility of protecting and encouraging a healthy audio-visual sector and, where possible, a specific cinematographic industry through legislation and public funding."

Deep slump

Thus, the importance of film in any nation's life has been established. But the Filipino film industry is in a deep slump. Tickets bought in Metro Manila fell from 30 million in 1997 to only 15 million in 2001—a 50-percent drop that has severely reduced box-office income from P1.2 billion in 1999 to P981.3 million in 2000—an 18-percent decrease in only five years.

Focusing on local movies, sales have dropped from P833.8 million in 1997 to P706.5 million in 2001 (a 15.3-percent drop in only three years).

Why is the local film industry languishing? Main factors cited include heavy taxation, lower quality, fewer paying viewers, piracy, and the availability of many other entertainment options.

Fewer films

As a result, the country now has only a few remaining producers, who are making fewer and fewer films. In 1997, 202 movies were produced. That number went down to only 89 in 2000.

In 1997, nine producers made at least five films a year. In 2000, only four companies produced that number of movies—Regal with 18, Viva with 12, and Millennium and Star Cinema with eight films each.

Decline in output

If this downward trend continues, the Philippines will be producing less than 30 films yearly by 2004. This decline in output has led to many film workers losing their jobs. In 1997, 83,310 people were working directly in the movies; by 2000, that number had gone down to 56,651.

These alarming statistics should concern not just the local film industry but the government as well, because fewer jobs and less sales mean diminished government revenues. Thus the need for government to enact the movie bill, to come to the aid of the beleaguered Filipino film industry.

Drew Barrymore in a class act

By Ricky T. Gallardo

AFTER reading so many good reviews about Penny Marshall's "Riding in Car with the Boys," we went to check the movie out recently and agreed that the movie was very well crafted and acted.

Drew Barrymore may have been bland in "Charlie's Angels" but she scores high points here as an actress for her focus, consistency and depth. We journeyed with her as she played a mom caught between being a good homemaker and her dream of becoming a writer. We reckon this is one of Barrymore's best performances to date.

The movie also scores high with the powerful ensemble acting shown by the cast, a crisp and straightforward script, good photography and editing, and an unobtrusive music score.

Funny girl

We are aware that in real life, soap opera princess Claudine Barretto can really be funny. But when we saw her on the big screen in her latest movie, "Got 2 Believe," we thought she was hilarious.

As an actress, Barretto has been trained to move her viewers and make them feel and cry with her. But in this romantic comedy flick, Barretto shows us her other, funnier side.

Of course, it helps that she is paired with her real-life sweetheart Rico Yan, with whom she alredy has rapport. Catch "Got 2 Believe"—it's good fun.

Something new for Jeric Raval

Tired of playing the same, old roles over and over again, maverick action star Jeric Raval is glad that his new movie gives him the chance to play a more interesting character. In "Pistolero" he plays a sharpshooter who transforms into a blood-sucking vampire because of a curse.

Playing Raval's chief antagonist is John Apacible, who transforms into a werewolf that makes life difficult for the vampire-gunslinger. We'd like to see Apacible tackle more interesting roles, given his potential and range as an actor. Raval and Apacible agree that it's enough they star in at least two good movies a year.

BARRYMORE. Focus, consistency and depth.

Amy Austria episode

Most of the episodes we've seen of "Persona" have been drab, since the exchange between interviewer and subject are *"pilit."*

But when we recently saw Maila Gumila interviewing Amy Austria, we stayed glued to the show.

Gumila wasn't only an eloquent interviewer, she also knew exactly when to talk and when to let her interviewee take the floor. She should be given more exposure as an interviewer.

On the other hand, Austria's sincerity and honesty in dealing with the questions were palpable. By being forthright, she allowed viewers to see through her and feel with her. Congratulations!

Cris Villonco romances the stage

Cris Villonco is bent on expanding her artistic pursuits.

Last year, in "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," she held her own against more seasoned actors like Lara Fabregas. Now, she's taken on the lead female role in a restaging of the original Filipino musical "Alikabok," with libretto by Noel Balmaceda and music by Ryan Cayabyab.

Villonco plays Bising, a strong-willed young lady who joins the Philippine revolution against the Spanish conquistadors. She shares stellar billing with a relatively young cast that includes Dianne de la Fuente and China Cojuangco.

Star World acquires 2,000 hours of new programming

STAR World once again elevates its already unbeatable line-up of television programs with the acquisition of 2000 hours of brand-new, top-rated and Emmy-winning series and specials.

Asian premiere

Academy Award-winner Mel Gibson and martial arts box office sensation Jet Li co-executive produce their first primetime series, and the streets of San Francisco will never be the same when "Invincible" makes its Asian premiere exclusively on Star World.

Styled like the hyper-kinetic Hong Kong action films that made Jet Li a legend, this landmark television event is megged by action director Tony-Ching Siu-tung, who has directed and choreographed action for superstars Jackie Chan, Michelle Yeoh and Chow Yun-fat.

From platinum-selling recording artists to a fantasy date with royalty, Star World has the television specials Asia wants to see!

If you just can't get enough of Latin heartthrob Ricky Martin, Star World has saved the best seat in the house for you. Ricky Martin shakes his bonbon and belts out "La Vida Loca," "Cup of Life," and more of his pop hits in "Ricky Martin: Sound Loaded Live."

Favorite stars

Get up close and personal with your favorite stars as Star World presents a back-to-back interview with Ricky Martin and Kylie Minogue in "An Audience with Ricky Martin" and "An Audience with Kylie." A few chosen fans get the time of their life by seeing their idols perform live and a chance to ask them personal questions.

Turning heads and making headlines wherever she goes, multi-talented Latin star Jennifer Lopez goes back to her Puerto Rican roots in "Let's Get Loud" and performs her smash hits including "Love Don't Cost A Thing," "Play," "Feelin' So Good" and "I'm Real."

LOPEZ. Performs her smash hits in "Let's Get Loud."

A long lineup of artists and celebrities pay tribute to the King of Pop in "Michael Jackson: 30th Anniversary Celebration." Special guests include 'N Sync, Britney Spears, Ricky Martin, 98 Degrees, Shaggy, Gloria Gaynor, Gladys Knight, Gloria Estefan, Whitney Houston, Quincy Jones, and Diana Ross.

Sequel

"Who Wants To Be A Princess?" Is the big-buzz sequel to the infamous "Who Wants To Marry A Multi-Millionaire?" This time, one woman's fairytale fantasy becomes a reality when 30 young women from across the United States vie for the favor of a dashing young European prince in this two-hour special.

Join the legendary actress and singer who has captured the hearts of many in "Barbra Streisand—Timeless." Star World lets the viewers witness a rare performance by Barbra singing songs such as "Evergreen," "The Way We Were," "I've Finally Found Someone" and more heartwarming hits.

Cooking showdown

Witness an extraordinary cooking showdown as Star World concocts "Iron Chef USA: Showdown in Las Vegas." This one-hour, all-new special is based on the phenomenally successful Japanese culinary show, "Iron Chef." William Shatner (Star Trek, 911) serves as "The Chairman," who presides over the smoking, hot action as the world's top chefs roast, toast and sauté their way to gustatory glory. Staged in a sporting event-like atmosphere, "Iron Chef USA" features frenetic culinary battles between today's most-talented chefs as they race against the clock to create outstanding cuisine.

Plus live broadcasts of the much-awaited annual awards: the 2002 44th Annual Grammy Awards, the 2002 59th Golden Globe Awards and the 2002 Screen Actors Guild Awards, all in the comfort of your living room via Star World.

New season

And there's more to come: Star World's impressive stable of Emmy-winning hits returns for its new season such as "Ally McBeal," "Angel," "Buffy The Vampire Slayer," "Two Guys and a Girl," "Sabrina The Teenage Witch" and America's favorite game show "Hollywood Squares" are joined by new additions that will tickle your belly and rock your world. David E. Kelly's ("Ally McBeal," "The Practice") latest offering, the high school drama, "Boston Public," and James Cameron's ("Titanic") first foray into television, "Dark Angel," lead a new wave of must-see dramas, comedies and reality TV series including: "Charmed," "King of Queens," "Becker," "Malcolm in the Middle," "Mutants" and "Battlebots."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Rico and Claudine credit mutual trust and loyalty for their lasting relationship

By Jocelyn Valle

YOU may abhor those home TV shopping channels on cable but you can't help coveting those fashionable garbs of the "Sex and the City" gals, or even the sexy outfits of "Pangako Sa 'Yo's" Amor Powers.

Powerful medium

Television is a powerful medium and celebrities have become perfect product endorsers. (No wonder, electronics giants and media megamergers are integrating home TV shopping into mainstream entertainment fare. Think "The Truman Show.")

In fact, Chanel Manufacturing Co.'s marketing manager, Dino Medina, informs us that since Claudine Barretto became the image model of Particles, the shirt company's line for women, four years ago, sales steadily grew.

Medina agrees that his bosses had the foresight to sign up Claudine when her career was then starting to take off. Particles gained foothold in the cutthroat shirt business as the young star headlined one hit soap opera to another.

New contract

Not surprisingly, Claudine recently signed a new two-year contract with Particles. Ditto for boyfriend Rico Yan, who's been the image model of Molecules, the shirt company's apparel for men, since last year.

Likewise a popular young star, Rico got offers to endorse different brands, but he chose Molecules because he saw for himself how Claudine's sponsor has been taking good care of her.

"It's a relationship based on trust and loyalty," declares Claudine, as Rico nods in agreement. Much like the couple's own four-year-old romance.

Proof

Rico points out the many times that Claudine comes to his defense as proof of their loyalty to each other. "When she reads something against me, she knows right away that it's not true," he says, believing that intrigues are inevitable in their line of work, anyway.

Though ABS-CBN's prized talents first acted together in the ensemble romantic flick, "Radio Romance" in the mid '90s (they since co-starred in "Madrasta," "Dahil Mahal Na Mahal Kita," "Mula Sa Puso" and next week's "Got 2 Believe"), they only got cozy in 1998.

Rico remembers being unattached for two years when he asked Claudine for a date. "And she said yes," he grins. "*Nag*-take-out *kami* and we ate at her place. Then I slowly courted her."

How? "Not with flowers and jewelry," he replies. "I gave her thoughtful gifts like a box of doughnuts and a cup of coffee when I knew that she wanted some in the morning." After a few months, they went steady.

YAN AND BARRETTO. Solve their problems together.

Rico marvels at Claudine's uniqueness. "Unlike some girls who are dying to be seen in the 'in' places, she's a homebody. And you find her doing household chores, even cleaning the toilet."

Business ventures

Like Claudine, Rico is busy with his show biz career (mainly co-hosting the daily noontime show, "MTB," and acting in the primetime sitcom, "Whattamen"), and some business ventures. "But we make it a point to call each other and we set aside one day a week as our special day off," he smiles, adding that they both love to reward themselves with good food, especially Spanish dishes.

Both stars can cook, but Rico takes his hat off to his girlfriend, whose pasta creations, he swears, he can eat for two straight months.

Claudine, on the other hand, loves the letters that her boyfriend sends her. "I collect letters," she explains. "I also love writing letters but sometimes I don't get to send them. I write to Rico but I get more letters from him."

"We talk about anything and everything under the sun," she adds, beaming. "We try to solve our problems together. *Sana nga, siya na talaga.*"

Realist

A realist, Claudine also agrees that a lot of things can still happen in five years—the time when she sees herself settling down. (Her dream wedding is set in the Bahamas.) Still, she cites one incident that tells her that Rico is really the one for her:

She was then shooting "Oops Teka Lang…Diskarte Ko 'To" with Robin Padilla in an island called Pamana (a 40-minute boat ride from Subic) and there was a storm. "*Dapat mga* two weeks *kami doon pero* second day *pa lang namin, bumagyo na*," she recalls. "So my dad made arrangements for my tito's yacht to fetch us. When we reached Subic, I saw my mom and Rico.

"*Hindi niya ako ma*-contact *kasi walang* signal *ang* cell phone *ko, kaya dumiretso na sya doon.* Two days *pa nga yatang wala siyang tulog. Meron pa siyang* flowers for me!"

Too bad, futuristic TV shows with home-shopping features can't sell true love.

'Guhit' art exhibit at Baguio Country Club to benefit Akap

EIGHT artists will be holding an art exhibit entitled "Guhit" at the Baguio Country Club starting on the 23rd of March till the 10th of April. The exhibit is for the benefit of Akap (Alay Sa Kapatid International Foundation).

Akap is a private non-profit organization whose aim is to benefit farmers and marginalized families in the Cordilleras through cooperatives and livelihood projects.

Thus, Akap is not a "dole out" organization, but a teaching and supportive one that helps elevate the dignity of less-fortunate Filipinos in the Cordilleras.

Exhibiting artists

Among the exhibiting artists are Araceli Limcaco Dans, Lucy Vergara Fernando, Felipe Mayoya, Tito Sanchez, Joven Ignacio, Angelo Baldemor, Aladin Antiqueno and Azor Pazcoguin.

For further information, call Sammy Torres at cell phone no. 0917 443-3894, Malou Galiste or Roselle Gunchai at tel. no. 074-50-60 to 68, or fax no. 074-442-76-74/6501, email: baguiocountryclub@philwebinc.com.

Art collectors who acquire the high-quality artworks of the "Guhit" artists will not only be helping farmers and families in the Cordilleras, but they will also be investing in artworks that will accrue in prestige and value in the future.

VISUAL artists in "Guhit" art exhibit: Seated from left, Araceli Limcaco Dans, Lucy Vergara Fernando; standing from left, Angelo Baldemor, Joven Ignacio, Tito Sanchez, Azor Pazcoguin, Felipe Mayoya and Aladin Antiqueño.

Successful 'experiment' at Tsukiji

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

THERE are a few exceptionally good restaurants in Manila. So superior is their quality that if they operated in the countries they represent, they would not only excel but surpass other top-rated dining places there. So, when invitations to dine at these places come along, nothing will keep me from going.

I had not seen Bong and Lisa for months. I looked forward to enjoying both their food and company. All lovers of good food, we had set our meeting at Tsukiji, the "title holder" of the finest Japanese cuisine in the land. So, I wouldn't feel lonesome, they gave me a "date," Philip, a longtime friend.

Second time

This was the second time I would dine there. I remembered that the place served a variety of beef which was equal if not superior to Matsusaka or Kobe beef.

I made sure I put on a pair of socks without holes (shoes are removed there). I didn't want to grab attention from the fine food. All the way to Pasay rd., I was full of excitement. I also remembered being told to come soon after Friday evening for it is during Friday that the restaurant receives its shipment of fresh ingredients from Japan. Our lunch was on a Sunday. These are the dishes we had:

We started with Namuro or pickled mixed vegetables. Common in many Japanese restaurants, this version was in a class all its own. We also had Dobinmushi or Emperor Soup, served in a tiny pot and mini cups. The soup was clear, simple but bursting with flavor.

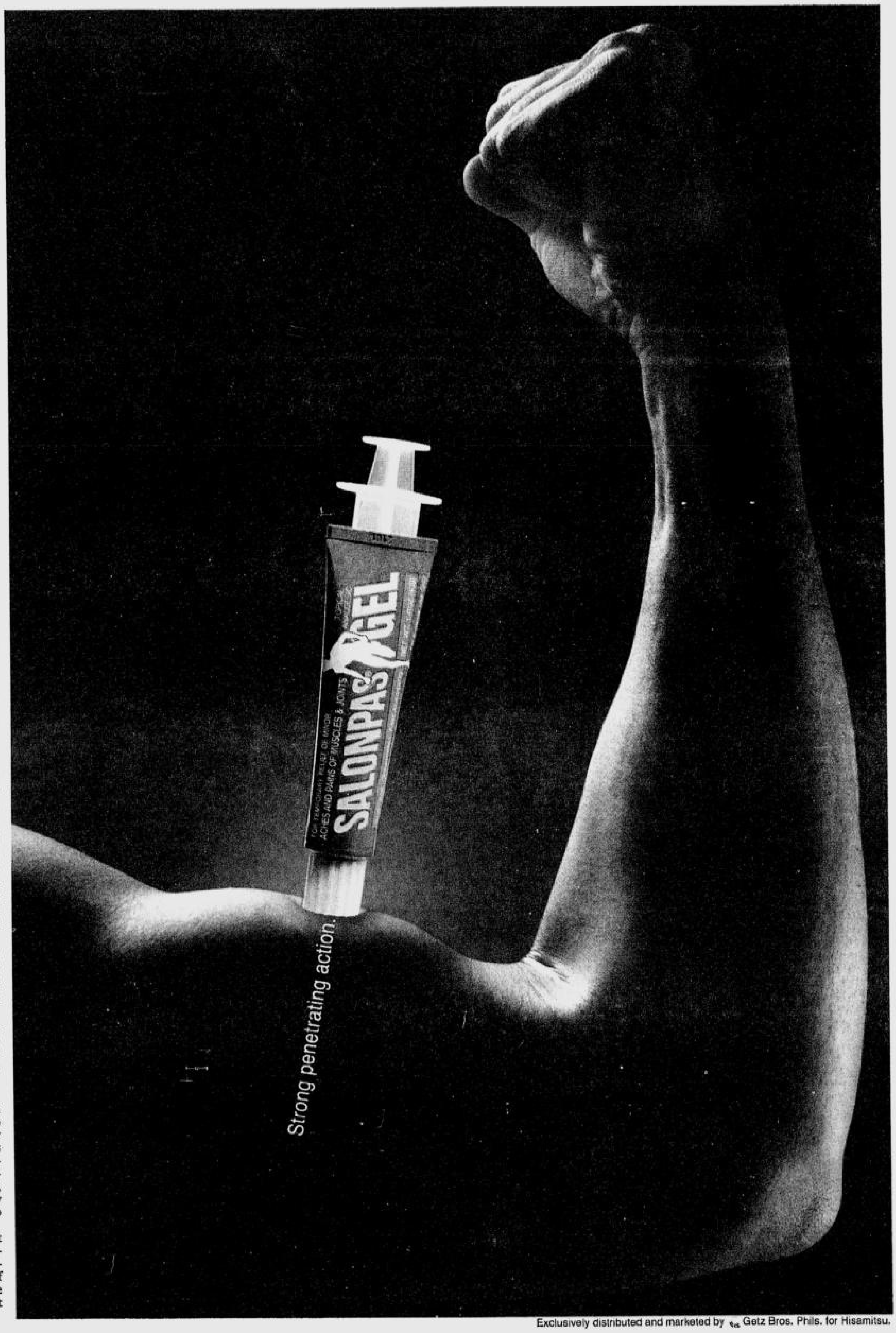
We had some really fresh Kanburi or yellowtail sashimi, Uni or sea urchin sashimi, salmon sashimi and Anago or seawater eel sushi. With superior soy sauce and wasabe, mmmmm, yummy!

Main course

Almost full, I was afraid we would never reach the main course. I was looking forward to the Jo Rosu or special sirloin and the Tokujo karubi or marbleized beef, both of the Ohmi variety. I was told this is the variety of beef served to the Emperor and his royal family in Japan. Eager to "experiment," I got a slice of the marbled beef, broiled each side for a few seconds without any salt or pepper, and tasted it. It was superb! So tasty on its own!

Tsukiji or Izakaya Kappo Tsukiji is located at the Milky Way bldg. on Pasay rd. Call tel. 843-4285, 812-2913. Owned by the brother and sister tandem of Jay and Malou Gamboa (owners of New Circulo) and a Japanese partner, this place would be a hit even if it opened at the very heart of Tokyo.

Happy eating!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Hollywood's most powerful people

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

MONTHS after the big screen release of "Harry Potter's" first adventure, the movie's actors remain most sought after. Many still ask for bios and what-have-you.

A number of our readers have different questions in mind, though: Who are Hollywood's most powerful people? Some wonder, where do their favorite *telenovelas* come from?

Write us: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Saturday Special section, Show biz Q&A, Chino Roces ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo sts., Makati City.

This week's Q and A:

"Kindly feature my favorite actor, the actor who played Draco Malfoy in the 'Harry Potter' movie. What's his real name and date of birth? Any interesting trivia about him?"—*Patricia Sanchez, Mexico Pampanga.*

Harry's antagonist, Draco, was played by versatile British child actor, Tom Felton (real name: Thomas), born on Sept. 22, 1987 in London, England, United Kingdom. Tom, 14, started acting at an early age, 8, after an actress-friend of the family suggested that he take up acting. Two weeks after he got an agent, he bested 400 other children, landing an international commercial campaign.

ROBERTS. Most powerful actress of all time.

FELTON. Bested 400 kids for his role in "Harry Potter."

Sports

Unknown to many, Tom sings very well, and loves sports like ice skating, basketball, cricket and tennis. He is admired for his ability to easily shift from good-boy roles (he played Jodie Foster's son, Louis Leonowens, in the bittersweet, romantic non-musical adaptation of "The King and I" in "Anna and the King") to meanies (Draco Malfoy in "Potter") to, would you believe, a 4-inch tall creature in 1997's "The Borrowers," starring John Goodman as an evil real-estate lawyer called Ocious Potter. What's with Tom and the Potter name, huh?

"Please feature the complete list of Entertainment Weekly's most recent Power 101, their list of Hollywood's most powerful people."—*Arch Boldios, Muntinlupa City.*

Much as we would like to accommodate your request, we can only list the top 50 due to limitation of space. What made the list (released on Oct. 26 last year) interesting was EW's acknowledgment that Julia Roberts' high ranking (5th) was mainly due to her ability to open "lethargic, so-so" movies ("The Mexican," "America's Sweethearts") to big numbers, and called her "the most powerful actress of all time."

Current ranking

Here they are (listed according to current ranking, with interesting entries in bold letters):

(1-10) **Ron Meyer/Stacey Snider** (producers of "The Mummy Returns," "Jurassic Park 3," "American Pie 2"); **Tom Hanks**; Leslie Moonves; **Steven Spielberg/Jeffrey Katzenberg/David Geffen**; **Julia Roberts**; Doug Morris; Sherry Lansing/Jonathan Dolgen; **Oprah Winfrey**; **Tom Cruise**; Jeff Berokes/Chris Albrecht;

(11-20) **Katie Couric**; **Bob and Harvey Weinstein** of Miramax; Jamie Kellner; Sandy Grushow; **JK Rowling**; Jeff Zucker; Tim Rothman/Jim Gianopulous; **Thomas Mottola**; **Steven Soderbergh**; **Mel Gibson**;

(21-30) John Wells; Gail Berman; **Russell Crowe**; **Stephen King**; Dick Wolf; Alan Horn/Lorenzo Di Bonaventura; Brian Becker; Stu Bloomberg; **Jim Carrey**; Jimmy Lovine;

(31-40) **Ridley Scott**; Richard Cook; John Sykes; Ron Howard/Brian Grazer; Don Ianner; Peter Roth; Roger Aames; **'N Sync and Britney Spears**; **Denzel Washington**; **Madonna**;

(41-50) **George Clooney**; Creative Artists Agency; Clive Calder; **George Lucas**; Amy Pascal; **Nicole Kidman**; Alex Yemenidjian; Robert Shaye; **Jerry Bruckheimer** and Jim Wiatt.

"CARITA" stars Lissete Morelos Zaragoza and Miguel de Leon with unidentified child star.

"I love the *telenovela*, "Carita de Angel," aired daily (12:30-1:30 PM) over IBC 13. *Puwede po bang humingi ng konting impormasyon tungkol sa mga* lead stars *nitong sina* Miguel de Leon *at* Lissete Morelos? *Bagay na bagay sila*.

"Are those their real names? Are they married to each other? What countries do they come from? Kindly share with us a short bio of the two."—*Lita Mariano, Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila.*

He is Miguel Angel de Leon Lopez in real life, she is Lissete Morelos Zaragoza. Miguel de Leon and Lissete Morelos are their screen names. No, they are not married to each other.

Miguel (who plays his first lead, Luciano Larios, in Mexico, the "Hollywood" of *telenovelas*) is married to fellow Venezuelan *telenovela* superstar, Gabriela Spanic, a former Miss Venezuela who visited the Philippines last year to promote "La Usurpadora" (where Miguel played second lead, Douglas Maldonado).

Theater actor

Miguel was born in Caracas, Venezuela on Feb. 23, but the year of his birth has been one of *telenovela* world's best-kept secrets. He has black hair, brown eyes and is 5'11" tall. A trained theater actor, he holds degrees from the University College of Caracas and the Taller University of Macarillas.

On the other hand, Lisette is Mexican, born on May 21, 1978. She has green eyes and blond hair. She plays the first grade teacher-nun, Cecilia Dorantes Santos de Larios in "Carita de Angel." She is a graduate of the Center for Artistic Education in Mexico City.

She starred with Eduardo Capetillo (remember Thalia's leading man in "Marimar"?) in "Camila." She taped "Carita" in 2000 with De Leon and child star Daniela Aedo.

RECORD REVIEW

Jazz is alive and well in 'Ground Zero'

By Mel Macaraig

RECORD companies don't have much interest in Filipino jazz musicians. A query at any record bar involving the parameters "jazz" and "Filipino" will inevitably lead you to the non-jazz of some elevator music instrumentalists, or worse, Richard Merck. There are a few local jazzbos keeping the flame alive in obscure clubs, and fewer still who will venture to document their work in a commercial recording. One such intrepid band is WDOUJI (woo-dowgee), with their independently-produced CD, "Ground Zero."

Quartet

WDOUJI is a quartet composed of Ronald Tomas (ts, ss), Aya Yuson (g), Simon Tan (b) and Koko Bermejo (dr). Its peculiar name is not merely an acronym. The name purportedly has deeper meanings, if you bother to look up stuff on the group and its constituent members in the various websites on Pinoy jazz. There are a handful of such informative sites (though WDOUJI's own site is not one of them and is badly in need of an update).

Since you can get that info on your own, let's focus instead on the music in the album.

Immediately, I give points to WDOUJI for daring—to produce a jazz CD in today's market, and to persist in the demanding piano-less format. More than this, though, they bring to the table a highly credible degree of musicianship. The album as a whole has substantial quantities of what is good in jazz: swing, improvisation, technique, honest playing, respect for the traditions, etc. Most of the cuts are rooted in the blues form, and the over-all sound is pure mainstream—you get heavy wood on Tan's upright bass, flat, dark, unprocessed tone (OK, he uses a little chorus effect) on Yuson's guitar, and no cheap echo on Tomas' saxes.

Title cut

That is not to say that this is a formulaic collection of head-solo-head jams. Rather than leading off with the usual bop burner, the CD starts with the title cut, a slow, relaxed tune. Shortly into the song, there is a clear sense that these players, individually as well as collectively, perform at a high level, and are very comfortable at moderate tempi.

The bopping doesn't start until the second track, "What It Is." Everyone loves a finger-snapping solo vehicle. Next up is "For You and You Alone," a piece of polished post-bop, highlighted by Yuson's fluent guitarwork, which he tops off with sliding, Pat Metheny-like triplets.

Maybe I'm too influenced by the song title, but the ensuing "Dear John" makes me think of John Coltrane's "Dear Lord," although the band's take is less worshipful and more laid-back. Bermejo's drums imbue "The Dark Cloud of CDC" with a rolling, New Orleans backbeat, reminiscent of the city's own Astral Project.

WDOUJI apparently like to mix witty song titles with skillful playing. "Blues in a Borrowed Flat" is as much about its quirky melody that keeps going flat, as it is about squatting in your pal's apartment. On the other hand, one can only guess about the title for the funky "It's All Good . . . the Boulevard . . . Jail." Perhaps "Good" pertains to the greasy, soul vibe of the song, while 'Jail' corresponds to the solitary confinement of the unaccompanied sax break that closes the tune.

Pleasant surprise

A pleasant surprise is the closer, a 10+ minute cut with the too-obvious title "A-Modal." I've seen many CDs, including works of established artists like Michael Brecker and Kenny Garret, marred by ending with an extended, formless, self-indulgent jam.

But while "A-Modal" is clearly the longest, least structured cut in the album, the jam is cohesive and coherent, a showcase of collective improvisation that actually made me think of mid-60s Miles Davis quintet.

Since this is an independent production, the CD is not without rough edges, both in terms of the music, and the sound quality. Tomas' tone crumbles a bit at the extremes of its range. Yuson's comping and Tan's bass lines are conservative and dense. The songwriting is more clever than it is lyrical or beautiful. (To be fair, composition is the most difficult part of jazz in which to excel).

The mixing of the instruments is peculiar; drums and guitar are often set on the farthest left or right of the mix. I don't know if the engineer was going for a retro effect, or trying too hard to "place" the instruments in the soundstage.

Whatever it was, the result is flat sound that lacks space and realism, even with a good sound system.

"Ground Zero" is an apt name for a maiden effort. It hopefully also implies even better things to come. Apart from the inevitable artistic growth (WDOUJI is apparently a hard-working unit), and improved songwriting, it would also be interesting to see the group tackle covers of less structured tunes along the same lines as "A-Modal," that allow them to explore their group interaction. (Wayne Shorter's "Footprints" comes strongly to mind).

Last hope

Don't buy "Ground Zero" just because of the whole "support the independent Filipino artist" thing, or because this may be the last hope against our children evolving into Britney, Justin and Eminem clones.

Rather, buy it because it's as good as anything I've heard in the last three months. I have not yet seen these guys live, but I look forward to it. Sure, it's not about to garner five stars from Downbeat. But if you want good jazz, played with integrity, skill, commitment and creativity, whether local or not, this album fills that bill.

'BANDITS'

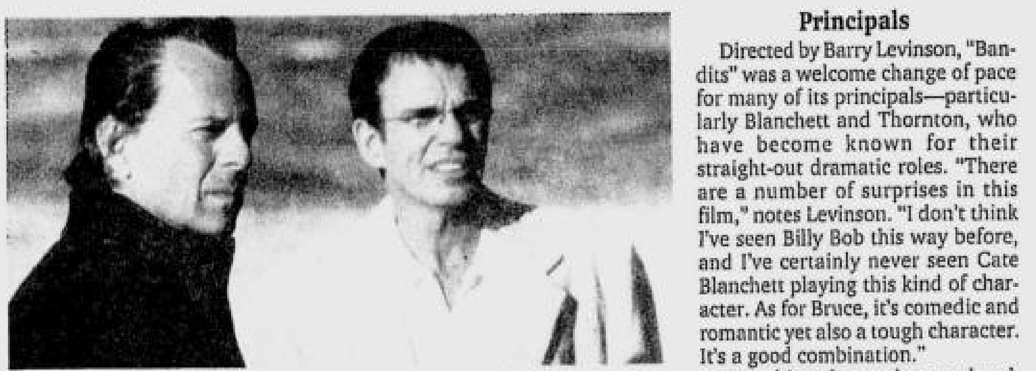
Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton in crime caper

IN Twentieth Century Fox's new action-comedy "Bandits," Bruce Willis and Billy Bob Thornton are not your average bank robbers. Willis, as Joe Blake, is the most romantic guy that most women have ever met—never mind the fact that his day job is crime. Thornton, as Terry meanwhile, is a felon with phobias.

Serious laughter

Together, they're the "Bandits" and you can bank on some serious laughter.

In the film, Joe and Terry are well-known fugitives, famous for their unique bank-robbing style in which they avoid violence by simply kidnapping the bank manager the night before the caper and making him open up the vault first thing in the morning, when nobody's around.



WILLIS AND THORNTON. Not your typical bank robbers.

"The Sleepover Bandits," as they are known, are actually pretty nice guys who just want to get a jumpstart on their retirement-dreams, But things get a little more complicated when they meet bored housewife Kate Wheeler (Cate Blanchett), during what was supposed to be a routine heist.

Kate falls in love with the romance of Joe and Terry's lifestyle—and also begins to fall for the guys themselves. But how can she choose? Between Joe's dash and Terry's sensitivity, the two robbers may just make up the perfect man. As Kate joins the Sleepover Bandits on their job, it's clear that the relationship between these buddy bank robbers has changed, maybe for good . . .

Principals

Directed by Barry Levinson, "Bandits" was a welcome change of pace for many of its principals—particularly Blanchett and Thornton, who have become known for their straight-out dramatic roles. "There are a number of surprises in this film," notes Levinson. "I don't think I've seen Billy Bob this way before, and I've certainly never seen Cate Blanchett playing this kind of character. As for Bruce, it's comedic and romantic yet also a tough character. It's a good combination."

"Anything that makes me laugh has to be grounded in truth," adds Blanchett. "['Bandits"] is hilarious, but it's also dark. People tend to label things either as drama or comedy. Barry has his own genre, which is incredibly funny but also incredibly poignant . . . Kate Wheeler comes into the story by sheer accident. Eventually, she finds more than she's looking for."

Paramount notches up second best year in history

LOS ANGELES—One of Hollywood's top movie studios, Paramount Pictures, said Monday it had raked in $891 million at US box offices last year, making 2001 the second most lucrative year in its history.

Third place

The total puts the studio in third place among the highest grossing Tinseltown studios for last year, though Paramount failed to join the club of studios to gross $1 billion in a year of record takings for movie moguls.

A combined total of $8.35 billion in ticket receipts was shelled out by movie consumers last year.

Paramount said its income was powered by blockbusters such as "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" starring Angelina Jolie, which grossed over $130 million and the teen sleeper hit "Save The Last Dance," which brought in over 90 million for the studio.

"We started out 2001 with a bang last January with 'Save The Last Dance' and didn't stop until December with 'Vanilla Sky' and 'Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius,'" says Wayne Lewellen, president of Paramount's movie distribution arm.

The total US box-office takings were beaten only by 1998's tally of $10.5 billion, which it sailed into with the help of the biggest grossing movie of all time "Titanic."

Thriller

Other pictures that helped power Paramount's 2001 performance included the thriller "Along Came A Spider," which earned $74 million, "The Score" which grossed $71.1 million and "Down To Earth," which raked in $64.1 million.

Of its current releases, "Vanilla Sky," a psycholgical thriller starring lovers Tom Cruise and Penelope Cruz, had taken $71.4 million by Jan. 1, while "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius" had managed $49.4 million.

JOLIE. Her "Lara Croft" starrer grossed $130 million.

Paramount Pictures is owned by Viacom Inc., one of the world's largest entertainment and media companies. .

One of the veteran studio's main rivals, Warner Bros., has claimed the box office crown for 2001 by earning an estimated $1.23 billion with the help of the magic of mega-blockbusters like "Harry Potter and the Socerer's Stone."

The figure represented a whopping 15-percent market share for Warner Bros, which is owned by the media giant AOL-Time Warner Inc, also responsible for the all-star heist flick "Ocean's-11."

In November, Universal Studios became the first major production stable to pass the $1-billion mark, closing out the year with a total of around $1.05 billion in receipts, according to analysts' estimates.

Walt Disney Co. failed to retain top place for the first time since 1997, instead coming in fourth with its Buena Vista International unit's animated feature "Monsters, Inc." helping the house that Mickey built end the year with around $886 million in ticket sales. **AFP**

HK director tackles touchy taboos in 'Lan Yu'

HOONG KONG—Hong Kong arthouse director Stanley Kwan tackles two of China's touchiest taboos—homosexuality and democracy—in his latest film set in the Chinese capital.

Tortured romance

"Lan Yu," based on the online gay novel "Beijing Story," is about the tortured romance between two Beijing men, Lan Yu and Chen Handong, over 10 years.

"We had to shoot most of the scenes indoors," Kwan told Reuters in a recent interview, puffing away on a cigarette.

Homosexuality is but one of the many sensitive areas in the film. The 1989 bloody crackdown on student-led protesters in Beijing is another.

One of the most poignant scenes shows Chen driving towards Tiananmen Square searching for Lan Yu as tanks and troops tolled in to crush the demonstrators. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people were killed, according to some accounts.

Kwan, a vocal champion of gay rights who came out in 1996, said he was all too glad the film crew was made up of predominantly Beijing natives. "There are certain things that only Beijing locals understand . . .areas that we can tread on and areas that we absolutely cannot touch," Kwan said.

14 films

Kwan has made 14 films, primarily love stories, since 1985 but "Lan Yu" is the first involving homosexual relationships.

He said he agreed to take on the project because the story mirrored his own. "The story reminds me a lot of my own experience . . . it resembles my relationship with my partner which has been very tumultuous," said the 43-year-old director, a resident of Hong Kong.

Both Kwan and the financial backer of the film conceded early on that the film would never get past Chinese censors to be shown on the mainland, but felt it was crucial to set the film in Beijing nonetheless.

"The story revolves around the social and political changes in Beijing. Others suggested making the film somewhere else but I felt that we might as well not make the film at all it we had to do that," said Kwan.

The film, which debuted in Hong Kong late last month, has won praise at international film festivals from Toronto to Brisbane. It also has nabbed 10 nominations in the upcoming Golden Horse Film Awards in Taiwan. ***Reuters***

'Beauty and the Beast' bulks up for re-release on giant screens

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" is ready for its close-up.

Romance

The 1991 animated musical, about a bookish beauty named Belle and a romance that saves a monstrously cursed prince, is heading to giant IMAX screens for its 10th anniversary.

In addition to expanding the movie's size, the filmmakers have added a new musical sequence and filled in details to make the animation more presentable in the large format.

"The new song's all about cleaning up the castle, so we had to go into about 80 later scenes and literally straighten pictures and dust furniture and polish," said producer Don Hahn.

"Then we went to several other scenes and fixed mistakes. Maybe the background characters didn't have faces or some brush strokes were visible. You wouldn't notice that at the regular multiplex, but it sticks out when the images are six stories tall."

Expanded

The expanded "Beauty and the Beast" follows "Apocalypse Now Redux," in which Francis Ford Coppola restored nearly an hour of footage cut from his 1979 Vietnam drama, and precedes this spring's re-release of Steven Spielberg's 1982 "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," which has been altered to tone down some scenes featuring guns and rude jokes.

Although purists argue that films should not be tinkered with after their debut, the practice has become popular with many filmmakers and studios. William Friedkin's 1973 "The Exorcist," Spielberg's 1977 "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and Cameron Crowe's 2000 "Almost Famous" are just a few examples.

In some cases, fans prefer the revised versions. New editions of the cult films "Blade Runner," Ridley Scott's 1982 sci-fi thriller, and "Touch of Evil," Orson Welles' 1958 noir, won praise for minimizing elements that had been dictated by studios over the directors' objections.

Special edition

The idea for a "Beauty and the Beast" special edition evolved after the success of George Lucas' re-

BEAUTY/ p.D7

Will Tom Cruise really shoot a film in the Philippines?

By Nestor U. Torre

SO MANY people have been asking us about the film that Tom Cruise is supposed to be shooting in the Philippines this year that we decided to check with people really in the know.

Chairman

Lollie Mara, vice chairperson of the Philippine International Film and TV Office, referred us to the office's chairman, Jun Juban, who very kindly brought us up to date on developments not just on Cruise's new starrer, but also on another Hollywood movie that might be filmed here, starring Johnny Depp.

Juban confirmed that his office has been working for almost two years now on the Cruise project, but the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. has made US film people leery about shooting in perceived trouble spots abroad, and the travel advisory against Americans going to the Philippines is proving to be another dampener.

It has been pointed out to the American film people involved that only certain areas in this country are trouble-prone, so that it would be both easy and safe to shoot in selected places here.

Pleasant experiences

Cruise wants to film here because of some pleasant experiences working with some Filipino movie people in the past, so the project is still viable, and a decision one way or the other should be made soon.

But the delay has made Cruise decide to forego the original project, "Fertig," so he could shoot another worthy film, "Minority Report," which he has already completed. So, he's open to shooting another film here, "Ghost Soldiers," possibly with Steven Spielberg directing. The possibility of this happening has prompted US publications like Variety and USA Today to wax excited about a Cruise-Spielberg "reunion."

But, hold your horses, definite word will have to wait for Juban to come back from his Feb. 21 meeting with US production people in Los Angeles, California.

Possible locations

As for Johnny Depp, his project is "The Great Raid," and the production's designer has arrived here to scout for possible locations for the movie, the shooting phase of which has been pushed back to the end of May.

This delay has resulted in another problem, the rainy weather during that time of year, which could cause further delays in the production.

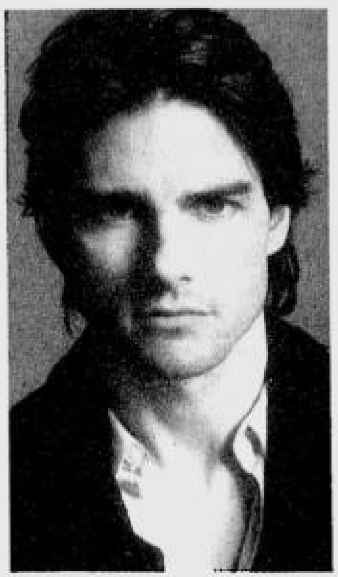
So, the word on the two big productions is still iffy, depending on the outcome of Juban's stateside meetings this month. Of course, many people want the two projects to shoot here, not just due to Cruise and Depp's big star value, but for the additional income that local film people involved in those movies will earn.

Appeal

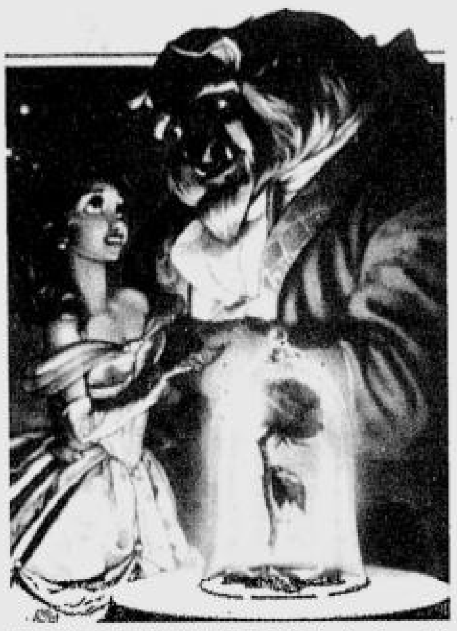
Another major incentive is the fact that those films could boost the country's appeal as shooting site for other international movies, and as a travel destination.

Incidentally, Juban's group is coordinating with other productions as well, one of which is the E! channel's "Wild On" TV show, which is shooting a one-hour special on the Philippines.

With these and other prospects in sight, the Philippines will be able to compete more forcefully with Thailand, foreign TV-film productions' most preferred Asian shooting site today.


CRUISE. A reunion with Spielberg?

DEPP. Stars in "The Great Raid."


'BEAUTY AND THE BEAST.' First animated movie nominated for best-picture Oscar.

'Beauty and the Beast' bulks up for re-release on giant screens

From page D6

vamped "Star Wars" trilogy in 1997.

Directors Kirk Wise and Gary Trousdale joked to Disney's then-studio chief Peter Schneider that they should follow Lucas' lead, add new scenes to "Beast" and send it back to theaters.

Schneider didn't laugh. He set them to work.

Although Walt Disney made a fortune re-releasing his original animated features such as "Snow White" and "Bambi" over the years, Wise and Trousdale wanted to attract audiences with something new.

They turned to "Human Again," a musical number they had originally cut because they felt it was too long and detracted from the characters of the Beast and Belle. The cheerful waltz, by composer Alan Menken and late lyricist Howard Ashman, features the comic sidekicks Lumiere the candleholder, Cogsworth the clock and Mrs. Potts the teapot trying to make the creepy castle more conducive to romance.

Lyrics

The filmmakers also had felt that the song's lyrics confused the movie's chronology by implying that several months had passed.

"We kept wondering, 'What was (the villain) Gaston doing?" Hahn said. "And Belle's father, Maurice, was still wandering in the snow all that time. Where was he?"

It needled them, however, that the Broadway stage version managed to incorporate the song "Human Again" and still tie up those loose ends, and they were sorry they hadn't been able to make it work.

"You get to see through the song that these household items were real people once who are suffering under the same curse as the Beast," Wise said.

For the re-release, the song has been revised to remove references to the passage of so much time. It includes scenes of Belle's horse being cared for in the castle stables, and another sequence in which Belle teaches the Beast to read.

"That way, the audience doesn't lose track of the main characters or wonder where anyone is," Hahn said.

No backlash

Hahn doesn't expect a backlash over the changes to the first animated feature ever nominated for a best-picture Oscar.

"You have to take it movie by movie. Some movies, yes, I just want to see in their raw original state," Hahn said. "But as long as it's the original directors, original animators and original voice actors doing the changes, I have no qualms about it."

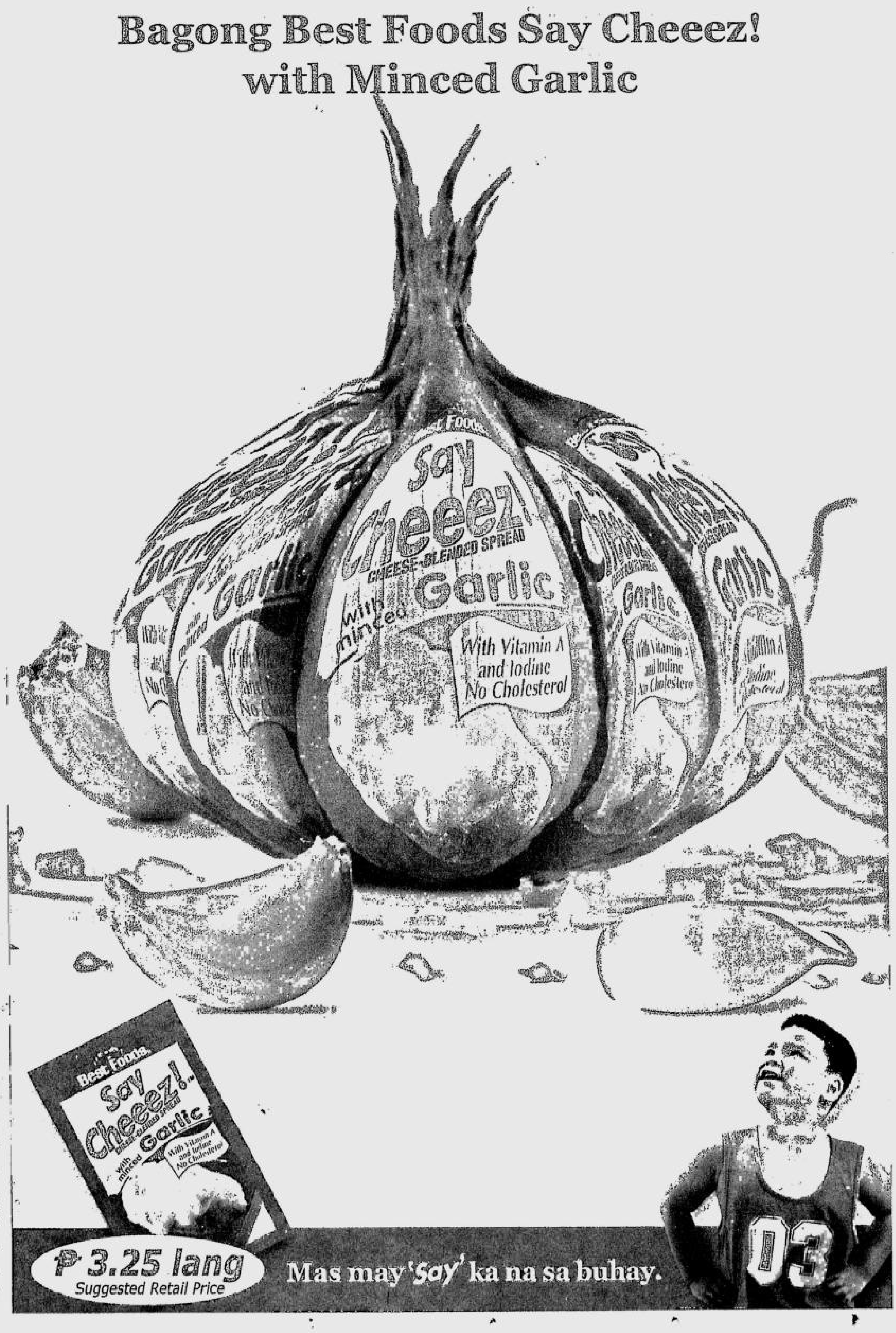
He added: "It's like a painter going back 10 years later and saying, 'Let me just fix this tree over here.' You can do that because it's your work of art. Emotionally, you own it."

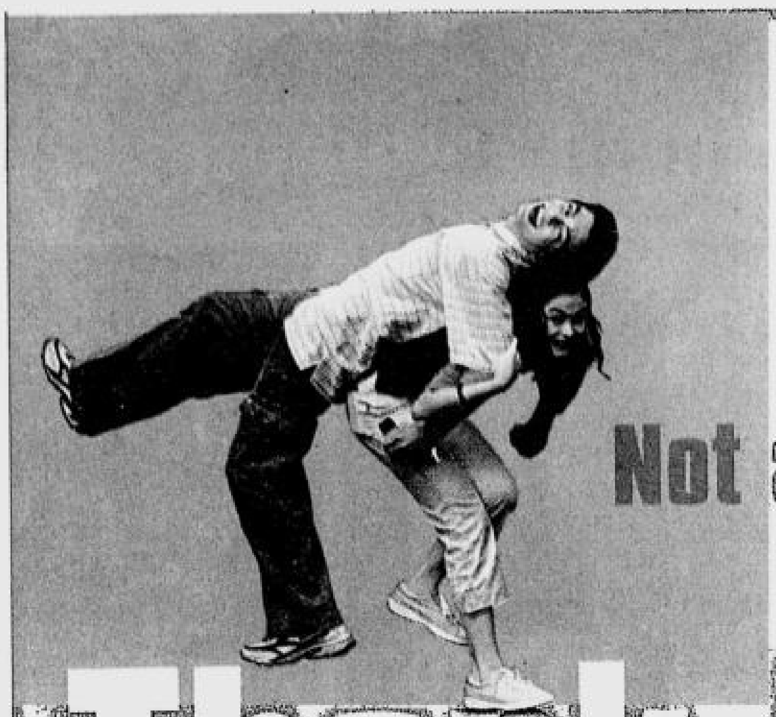
Disney executives didn't want him or the directors to alter too much, and set guidelines.

"We were allowed to change a few major mistakes—the ones that were really going to stick out - but otherwise we had to leave things the way they were," Trousdale said.

In some cases, the filmmakers came to view animation flaws as part of the film's character.

"If we saw something that was really funky and wanted to fix it, I said, 'You know what ... let's just chalk it up to charm," Hahn said. **AP**





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Simply Amazing!

Will Smith takes on Muhammad Ali

By Nestor U. Torre

HOW does a lightweight comedian like Will Smith become sassy, scrappy Muhammad Ali in his prime?

When film buffs first heard that Smith had been tapped to play the legendary boxing champion, they were nonplussed. Smith could get the "dance like a butterfly" bit, but the "sting like a bee" part seemed to be way out of his league.

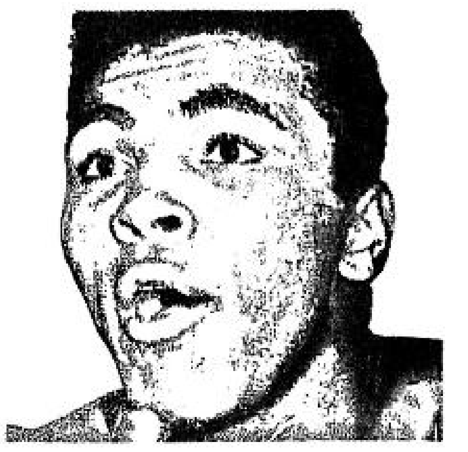
Self-transformation

But Smith was determined to prove his naysayers wrong. Taking his cue from Robert De Niro, who completely altered his physical form and put on more than 50 pounds to convincingly play a washed-out boxer in "Raging Bull," Smith did his own self-transformation.

He trained as a boxer for over a year and added 35 pounds of muscle to make himself credible as the heavy weightboxing champion of the world.

Since the film concentrates on the most tumultuous decade in Ali's life (1964-74), Smith had to do a lot of "championship" boxing for the movie. That was hard enough, but it was by no means the most difficult challenge that he faced while shooting the movie.

Much more daunting was the task of capturing Ali's complex, combustible and occasionally even contradictory essence—what a keen observer describes as "his verbal wit and athletic genius, his defiant rage and inner grace."



SMITH AND ALI. After a year of preparation, the gifted actor becomes the heavyweight boxing champion of the world.

THE BOXING legend visits Smith on the set of "Ali."

Racism

After all, the boxing champion did more than fight in the ring. He "changed the American scene, taking on racism, the status quo and the Vietnam War. Ali both mirrored and ignited the conflicts of his time and ours to become one of the most admired fighters and persons in the world."

The 10 years that the movie covers go from the night in Miami when 24-year-old Cassius Clay won the heavyweight championship from Johnny Liston, to the "Rumble in the Jungle," the stunning upset in Zaire that saw the then-dethroned Ali regaining his crown from the heavily-favored George Foreman.

"Between those epic fights," another observer points out, "Ali became a flashpoint for the '60s, the epitome of black power and personal conscience, sacrificing his title by refusing induction into the army."

Diverse themes

Michael Mann's film vivifies these diverse themes so well that it's gotten Ali's enthusiastic endorsement. This is a supreme compliment to the production in general, and to Will Smith in particular, because it's his on-target personification of the young Ali (before his long bout with Parkinson's Syndrome) that truly "makes" the film.

Smith's victory in this regard has been particularly hard-won. How did he come out a winner? The actor takes us through the process:

Advisers

"I felt like we had a lot in common. I understand Ali's love for life and children, his desire to have friends around, a lot of the things that drive him. But I wasn't even born in 1964, when he beat Liston, so I had to go back and learn everything about him, with the help of many advisers and trainers."

WILL/ P. E2

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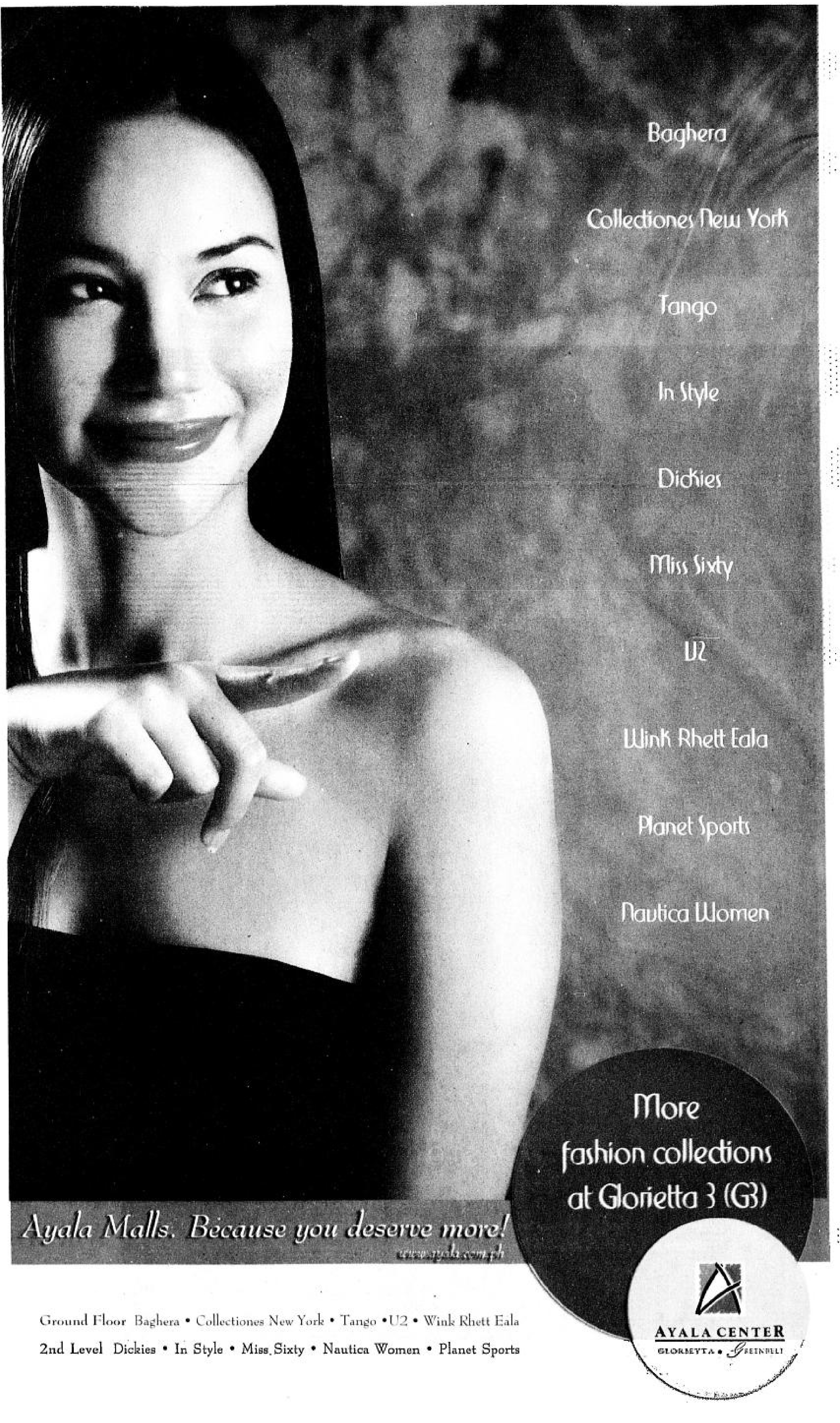

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A rare interview with Fernando Poe, Jr.

By Edmund L. Sicam

(Conclusion)

ANOTHER interesting discovery we made while interviewing FPJ was that he's a well-read individual. Why, he even met the controversial American writer Henry Miller ("Tropic of Cancer," "Tropic of Capricorn"). When he entered a bookstore in the US, he found out that Miller lived nearby. He asked the storeowner if he could meet the famous author. Miller, whose books were once banned because of their sexual themes, dropped in and shook hands with FPJ.

THE KING doing what he does best, action-filled scenes.

Loner

The reason he has time to read is that is he is a loner and is not fond of socializing. That's another reason he admits he's scared of the press although—as an aside, he says, "The press is also scared of me." He remembers being interviewed by veteran entertainment writer Ethel Ramos "2000 years ago." He considers her a good friend but at that time, she told him that if he did something wrong she would write about it. He has remembered that statement to this day so he's careful about what he says to the press.

FPJ says, however, that he doesn't mind negative comments about him so long as they're factual ("It's okay if my movies get bad reviews so long as I cry all the way to the bank."). He added that he's never bitter about negative writeups. "I try to forget them as soon as possible."

There was a time, for instance, when someone wrote that FPJ was feuding with director Lino Brocka. He says the report was baseless. How could the director be angry with FPJ when he actually agreed to film "Gumising Ka Maruja"?

Besides FPJ remarked, "*Kung si* Marcos *kinakalaban niya, ako pa kaya. Kung galit siya sa akin, matagal nya na siguro akong sinugod.* I've never fought with my director or leading lady." He did admit that he had a disagreement with Brocka on how a certain scene should be handled in their movie together "Santiago."

Compromise

"He wanted me to cry. Not just shed tears, but actually break down and cry. I told him *hindi ko kaya* so I agreed to meet him halfway." Brocka chided FPJ, saying the movie idol was too conscious of his image as a macho star.

DINA Bonnevie, left, shown here with Kaye Abad, was FPJ's personal choice.

That performance won for FPJ a CMMA trophy and in his acceptance speech, he thanked Lino and at the same time, said he probably won because he didn't cry profusely as Brocka had told him.

The last time he faced writers was when he was promoting "Dalubhasa" two years ago. This time, he was promoting "Batas ng Lansangan" but he seemed to have loosened up. According to him, there was a time when he didn't allow tape recorders in his interviews. Three of us in the group had brought recorders and he didn't seem to mind.

FPJ added that he wanted the press to know him better. Though he admits that stars are public property and have to sacrifice their privacy, he draws the line when it comes to his family. He does, however, bring up Susan's name in our conversation but it's all in relation to the film.

It was Susan who recommended Kaye Abad for the film because she was impressed with the young star's performance in an ABS-CBN soap opera. "Inday watches a lot of television and listens to the radio a lot," FPJ comments.

Friend

When our conversation turned to his relationship with his friend, the former president Joseph Estrada, he requested that the tape recorders be turned off, though much of what he said was for the record. It was obvious that his friendship with the former president was still strong. He was proud of the fact that he never used his friendship with Erap to get favors from the government. He said he had only been to Malacañang five times and he could recall each visit, which was usually for a formal occasion.

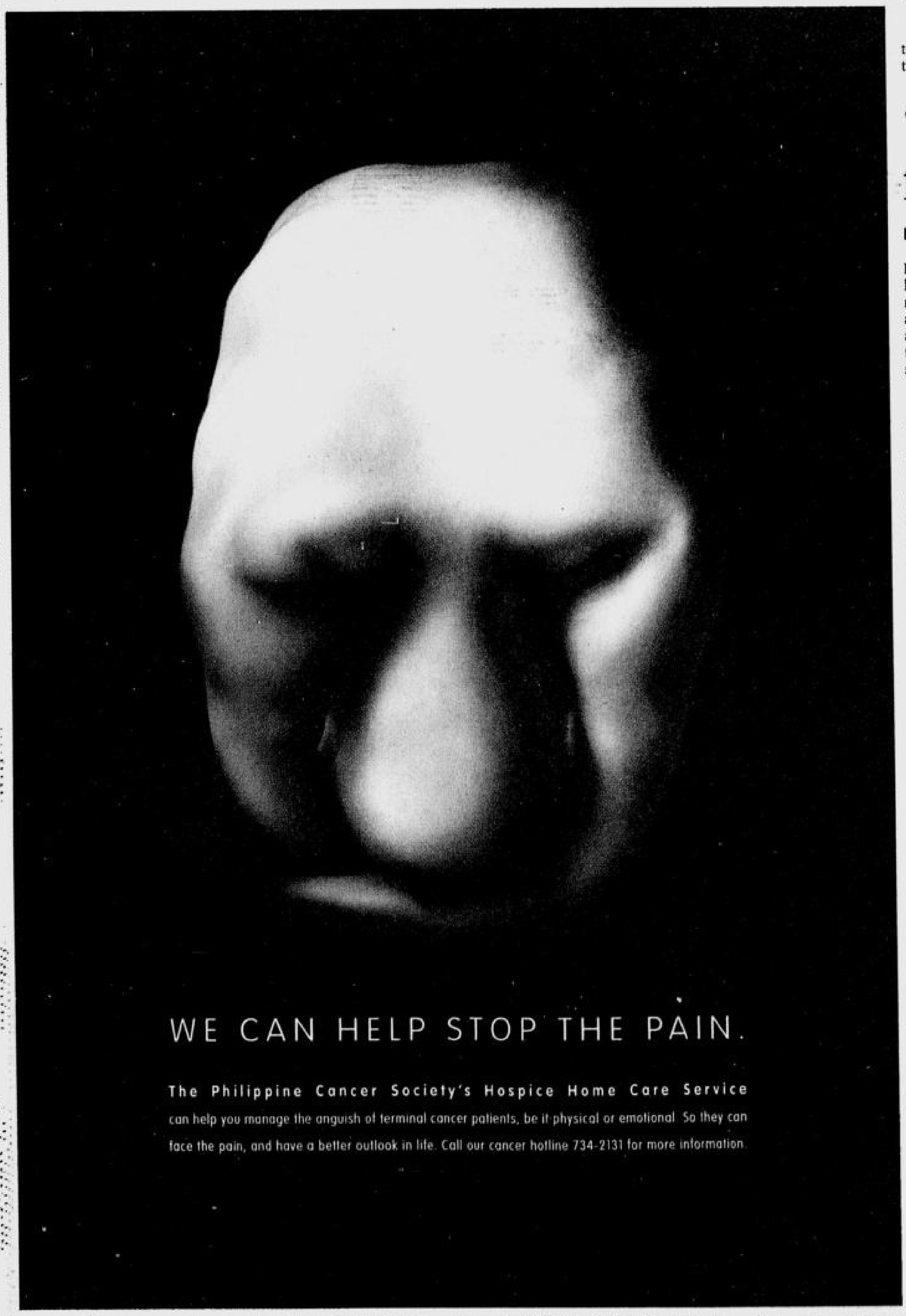
Somebody mentioned the topic of FPJ's running for the highest post of the land again and he just shrugged it off. We could see, however, that he was aware of the problems facing the country. For instance, he said that before the nation could solve its major crises, it should start with basic needs like solving the traffic mess and the perennial garbage problem.

Top choice

Turning to his movie, he said that Dina Bonnevie was his top choice for the role of his sister-in-law. He had long been wanting to team up with the veteran actress but it's only now that the two are appearing together. In the movie, the two have a tender kissing scene and as the director, FPJ was responsible for staging it.

He recalled how "*diyahe*" he felt about the entire scene. Of course, since Dina plays the sister of his late wife, the scene had to be delicately handled. No torrid kissing, in other words. He jokes, though, that in his next movie with Dina, if ever, he would make sure the scene was more intense.

Even though we had been talking for close to two hours, the King made no moves to leave. We were the ones who did since we had another appointment. So we said our goodbyes and wondered when we would again have the rare pleasure of talking to the movie icon.



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'John Q' suffers from excess of zeal

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—It's hard to knock Denzel Washington's earnestness in "John Q," the story of a desperate man who takes over an emergency room at gunpoint to force doctors to give his dying son a heart transplant.

Empty pockets

The preposterous excess of zeal the film oozes is another matter.

In bashing a health care system that can leave a 10-year-old on his deathbed because of his family's empty pockets, director Nick Cassavetes also repeatedly bashes the audience in the head, painfully instructing viewers how they must, must react at each silly emotional summit.

Feel anger now (conk). Invoke your outrage here (thump). Weep in commiseration there (whack). Decry the heartless system throughout (crack, smack, thwack).

Heart trouble is not the problem with "John Q." The movie needs a brain transplant.

"John Q" is not so much a film as a contraption: A collection of socially conscious widgets pieced together on a Hollywood assembly line, each moving part flailing a hanky bearing the title character's image as poster boy for socialized medicine.

Allusion

Toss in some inane groaners in James Kearns' script (like a TV reporter's allusion to O.J. Simpson, saying that exclusive footage from the ER is "my white Bronco"), and "John Q" makes a C-SPAN hearing on HMO reform seem an appealing entertainment alternative.

Overindulgence begins with the title, the first name and middle initial of Washington's character, John Quincy Archibald. "John Q" looks good on a movie poster, but in their fervor to tell the story of an Everyman fighting the system, the filmmakers might as well have gone the extra few feet and made the last name "Public."

John is a doting husband and father, too saintly to believe, given his severe financial straits. His wife's car has just been repossessed. He's cut to half-time hours at the factory where he works. He practically grovels during an interview for a new job but is told he's overqualified.

Then John's son (newcomer Daniel E. Smith) collapses on a baseball field. John and his wife (Kimberly Elise) rush him to the hospital. The parents meet with Doc Turner (James Woods), the resident maestro of heart surgery, and the hospital administrator (Anne Heche). The boy needs a new heart, and John's health insurance won't cover the operation.

Friends raise money. The family's church passes the collection platter. John sells everything he can. But it's a fraction of what's needed, and the hospital decides to send the boy home to die.

"Do something!" John's wife bellows at him.

Bad variation

Next thing, we're stuck in a bad variation of "Dog Day Afternoon" as John pulls a pistol on Turner and takes the emergency room staff and patients hostage, demanding that his son be put on the heart-transplant waiting list.

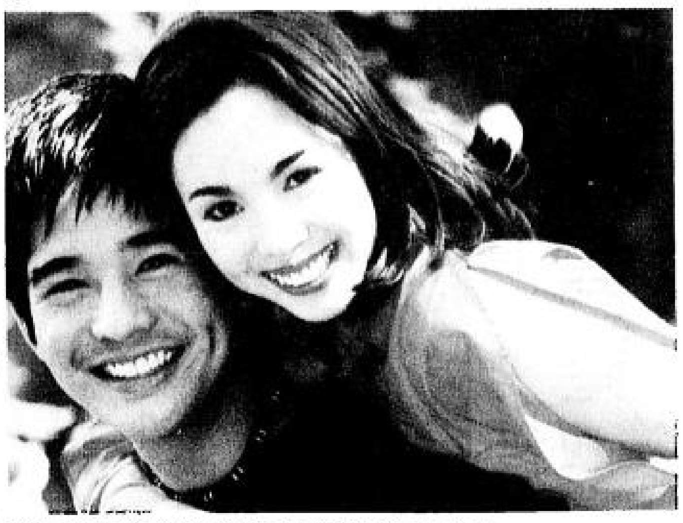
Washington was far more believable as a bad cop in last year's "Training Day" than as a good man doing bad things here. Still, his performance has great passion, sadly squandered in an undeserving story. **AP**

Will Smith takes on . . .

(From page E1)

Michael Mann recalls, "Will brought commitment and courage, a positive spirit to the daunting prospect of becoming Ali. He "became" Ali to the point where he even dreamed in Ali's speech patterns and regional inflections! And he transformed himself from a non-fighter to a champion pugilist with the help of Ali's own trainer, Angelo Dundee.

"The fighters he trained with pulled no punches, and Will became funny the way Ali is funny... Only Will Smith has the intelligence, the charisma and the discipline to take on the role of Muhammad Ali!"



RICO AND CLAUDINE. Reel and real love team.

LAMASAN. Mother hen on the set.

Olivia Lamasan directs her first romantic-comedy film

By Edmund L. Sicam

OLIVIA Lamasan has directed only six films in her career, but she has reaped numerous awards for them. Her first film, "Maalaala Mo Kaya, the Movie" won various awards, including the controversial Best Actress award that rightfully belonged to Aiko Melendez in the 1994 Manila filmfest. The following year, the Aga Muhlach-Lea Salonga starrer "Sana Maulit Muli" garnered Best Picture, Best Screenplay and Best Actor awards, also under Lamasan's direction. Her most honored work so far, the 1996 film, "Madrasta," enabled Sharon Cuneta to sweep the best actress awards from all the award-giving bodies that year.

> After directing so many tearjerkers, Olivia wanted to do something light

Tearjerkers

This year, *direk* Olivia wanted a change of scenery, so to speak. After having directed so many tearjerkers, Olivia said she wanted to do something light. Scriptwriter Mia Concio presented her with a story and Olivia liked it immediately. "*Kasi kakaiba iyung* treatment *sa mga* comic situations."

Hence, her new project, "Got 2 Believe," which Star Cinema describes as "romantic with a feel-light/feel-good love story." This movie marks the movie comeback of reel and real life love team of Claudine Barretto and Rico Yan.

This project started out when Charo Santos-Concio heard the David Pomeranz song, "Got to Believe in Magic." Olivia says that Charo expressed a great liking for the song, saying it would make a good movie title. Star Cinema then decided to use the tune as the carrying song, with Side A's Joey Generoso on vocals. In the movie, Claudine plays a wedding planner and Rico plays a photographer.

Familiar storyline

Hmmmm . . . doesn't the story line sound familiar? Olivia laughs and vehemently denies that they copied the idea from Jennifer Lopez's "Wedding Planner." In fact, she says that the story was already being developed way before the Hollywood movie was shown.

Olivia is known as "Inang" in show biz circles. She jokes that she has accepted this title because she probably won't be having children of her own. She admits that she is somewhat of a mother hen on her set. Olivia says she plays many roles on the set—mother and psychologist, aside from being the director.

"As director *kasi*, your energy dictates the energy on the set. Especially this one. Since it's a light romance, *ang daming* comic situations. *Kahit pagod ha pagod ka na, kailangan magpatawa ka, kailangan mag-ganyan ka para* light *ang energy mo. Kailangan* high energy *ka talaga para* high *din ang* energy *ng mga artista mo*," she explains.

But the director admits that she can lose her temper on the set as well. "Extremes (*ako*). *Pag masaya, masayang-masaya! Pag tumatawa, tawa ng tawa! Pag galit, galit na galit!*" she shares. "I scream, I tell them! *Minsan, nakakapag-bato ako ng lighter!*" Olivia reveals. "*Hindi sa tao ha! Sa baba!*" she adds. "I have to let it out because there's just so much pressure that you carry when you're directing. *Lahat sa iyo.*"

Difficult time

She had a particularly difficult time with this movie because she was not only the director of the film, but the producer as well. "*Grabe talaga ang* struggle *ko kasi nasa* producer's side *ako, tapos* at the same time, director. *Ang hirap no'n!*" she discloses.

"*Mas maluwag ang* director *dati sa* budget. Before, *pag sinabi mong kailangan ng* director *ang* crane *na ganito, kailangan ng* director *ng* equipment *na ganito. Ngayon, hindi*," recalls Olivia.

But Olivia says that this limitation only served to challenge her creativity further. "*Gagawan mo ng paraan.*" Olivia told us of one scene that she really wanted to include in "Got 2 Believe": She envisioned a disco scene wherein Claudine would be thrown into the air several times. She already envisioned the shots and planned out how she would execute them.

However, when she presented this scene to the other producers they reasoned out that she had other big scenes and if she did the disco scene, it would cost an additional P100,000 for only a few minutes of screen time. She decided to scrap the idea.

Sideline

"Sideline *ko ang mag*-direct. I'm really employed by Star Cinema, so that's my bread and butter," says Olivia. She is currently the assistant vice president for creative at Star Cinema. She says that she has always been in the group of Charo Santos Concio.

"PA *pa lang ako,* PA *ako ni Charo*. I was really with corporate from PA to line producing, to executive producer. I've been with ABS for 14 years. *Nauna iyung pagka*-empleyado *ko bago ako nag*-direct, *bago pa ako nagsulat*."

But the director makes films with a passion. "I can really do just one film a year. So when I do it, it's really more for love. *Iyung dahil gusto ko siyang gawin!*" she declares. "*Hindi ko kayang gumawa ng marami sa isang taon.*"

The director expounds on the fulfillment she gets out of directing. "*Siguro* the high of being able to create something. *You* make it happen. *You* bring it to fruition." Olivia states that right after graduation she joined a movie set as a production assistant.

"Even when I started working with ABS-CBN television, *ang puso ko talaga, pelikula pa rin*. Even when I was doing executive production jobs for ABS, I would still do line production for Vision Films."

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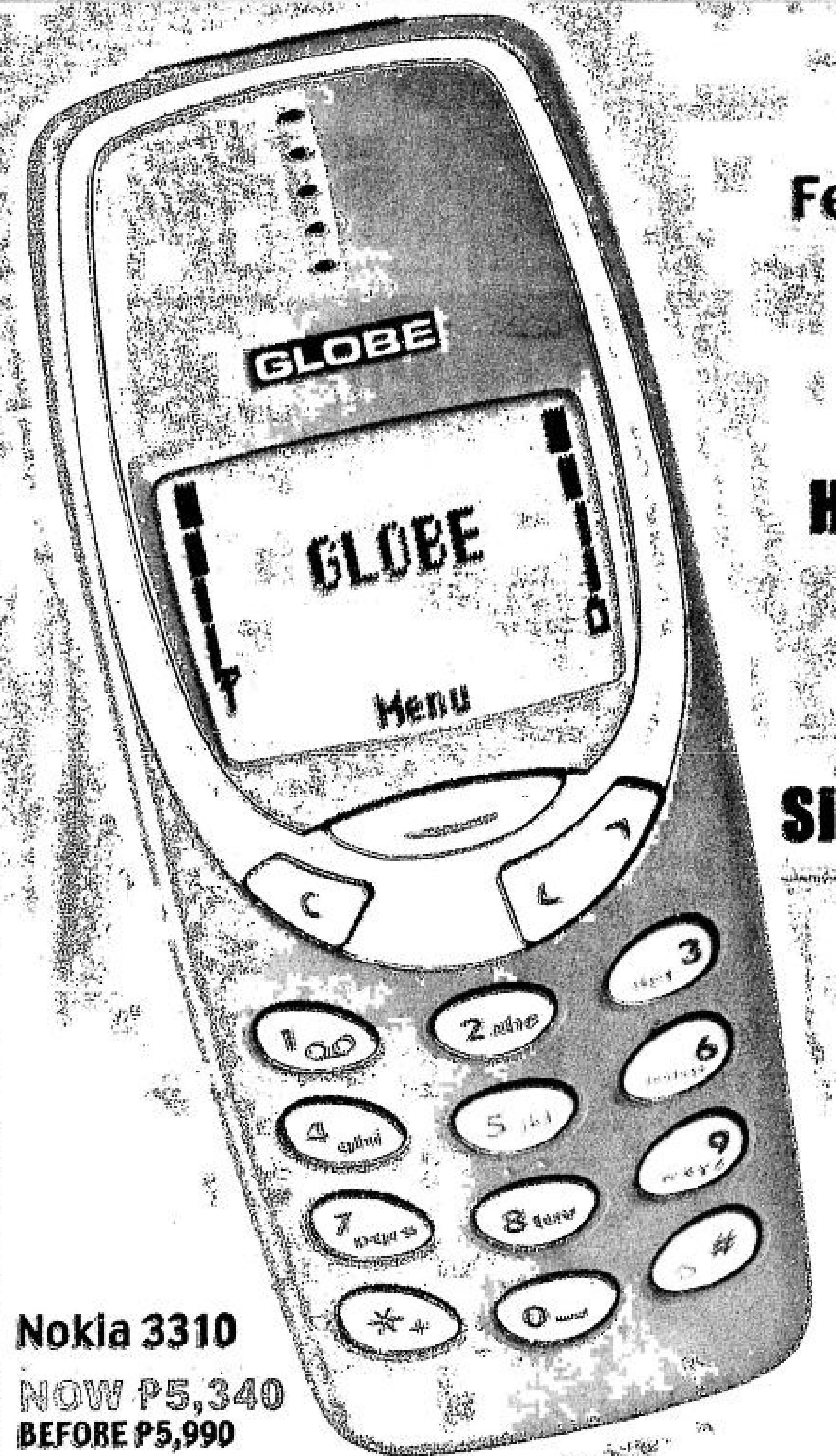

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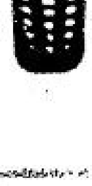

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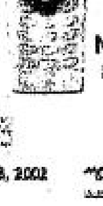

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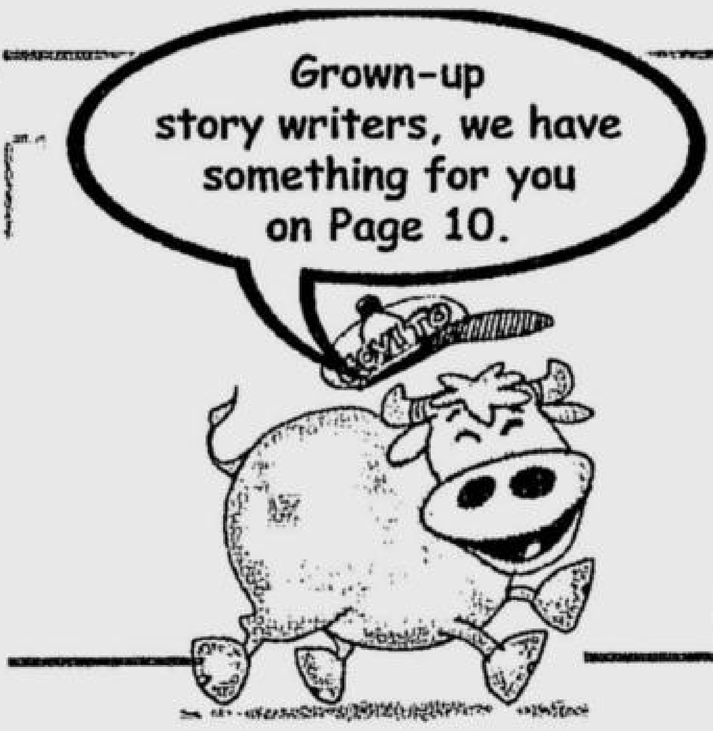
Grown-up story writers, we have something for you on Page 10.

Junior INQUIRER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2002 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 6, NUMBER 21
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- **Story: Voices from the Sea** Page 6
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CopyCat

First cloned cat is born, Texas scientists report

WHEN your favorite pet dog or cat dies, you'd probably be sad and miss it very much. But do you think it would be right to "bring your pet back" through scientific experiment?

In the United States last week, scientists at the Texas A&M University announced they have successfully cloned, or produced a copy, of a common house cat.

They named the two-month-old kitten "cc:" Which means "copy furnished," a term used in business letters when copies of one letter is sent to more than one person. You might be also recognize the term when sending e-mail.

The kitten is healthy, active and "cute as a button," researchers said.

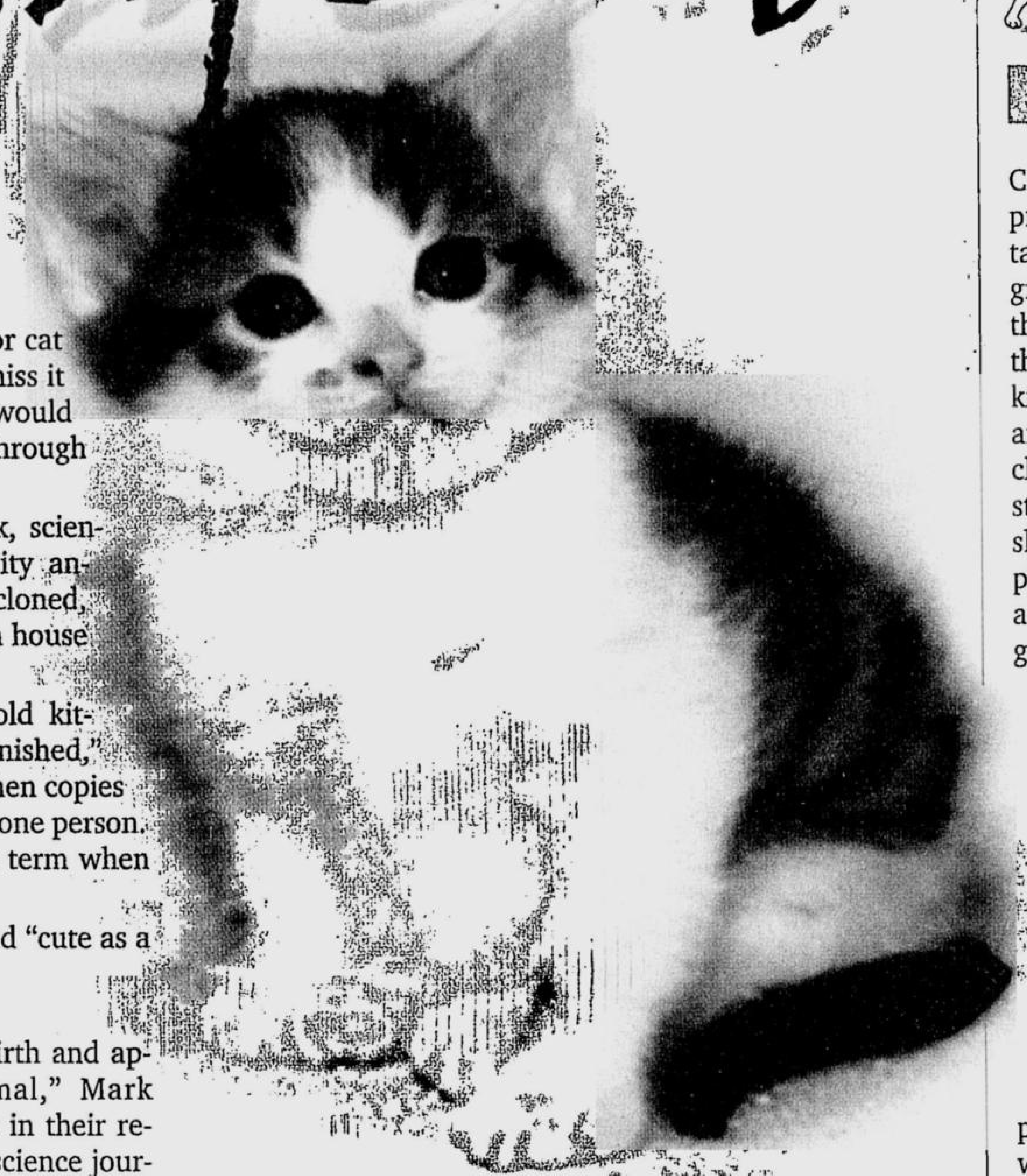
Calico Cat

"The kitten was vigorous at birth and appears to be completely normal," Mark Westhusin and colleagues wrote in their report in a letter published in the science journal Nature.

"CC:" is a calico-and-white shorthaired cat that looks similar to, but not exactly like, her genetic mother. The kitten looks very different from the tabby that gave birth to her.

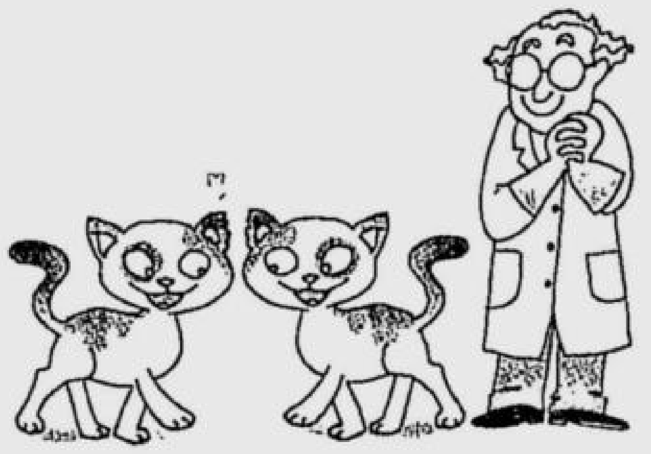
The scientists said her coat coloring was

COPYCAT/p.3



COPYCAT.

The world's first ever cloned cat, 'cc:', is seen at seven weeks old in this December 22, 2001 photo. The kitten is the first successful product of a program aimed at letting people clone their in the United States.



What is Cloning?

CLONING is a scientific process where a cell is taken from an adult or grown up organism. This is then used to grow a copy of that original organism. The kitten joins a growing list of animals that have been cloned from adult cells, starting with Dolly the sheep and now including pigs, goats, cattle, mice and an oxlike creature called a gaur.

There was a time that cloning was something you would only see in a science fiction movie. But in recent years, more and more scientists have been doing work in this area. There is a growing worry that more experiments would be done on humans. And many people are uncomfortable with that idea because it's like "playing God."

Would YOU clone your pet?

Join the online poll at http://you.inq7.net/ji

Eh, what's this?!

KINAPAK, a polar bear cub at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, plays in freshly fallen snow. Zoo officials said it was the one-year-old cub's first experience with a significant snowfall.

AP

Free To Be Pretty

AN AFGHAN woman looks at lipstick with a friend in a small makeup shop in Mazar-e-Sharif, northern Afghanistan. Fashionable clothes, jewelry and makeup items are the most po-pular merchandise among women after three years of Tali-ban rule in Mazar-e-Sharif.

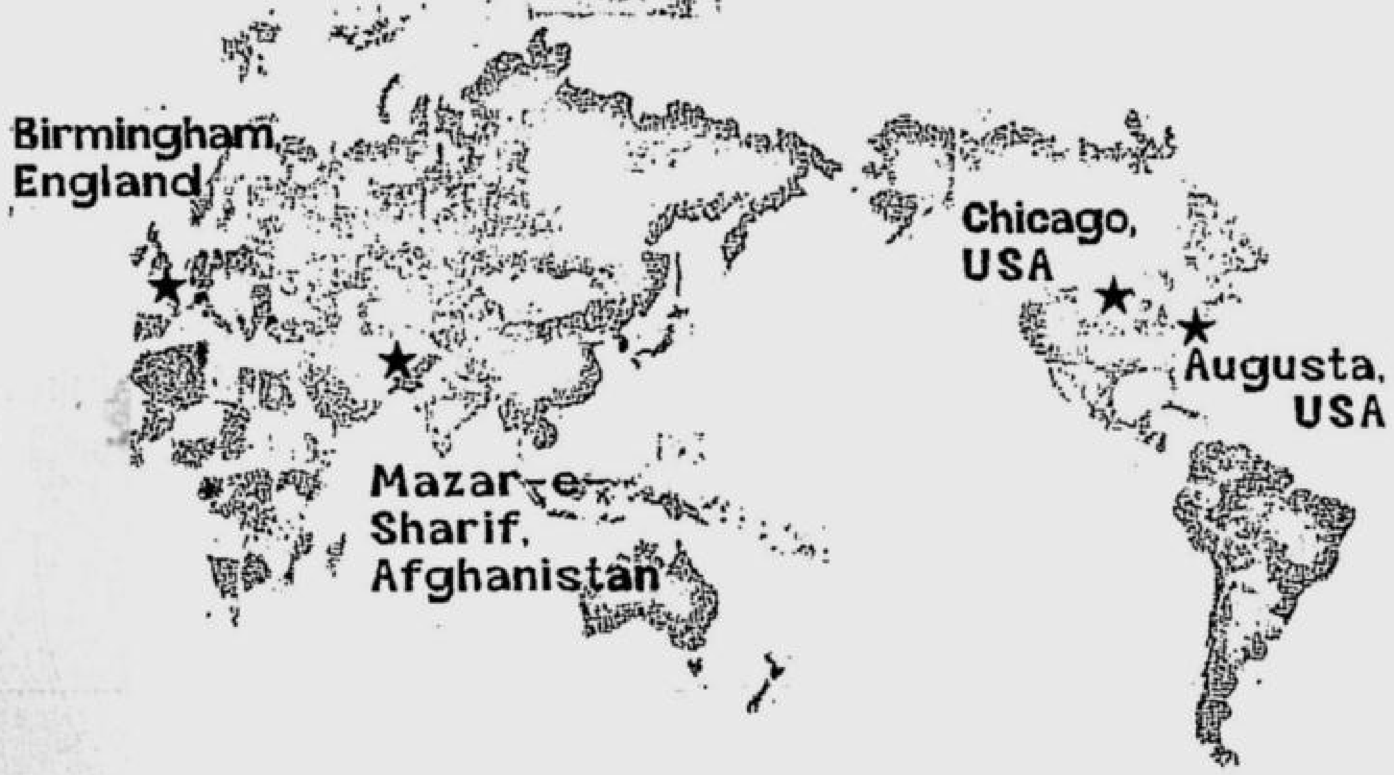
AP

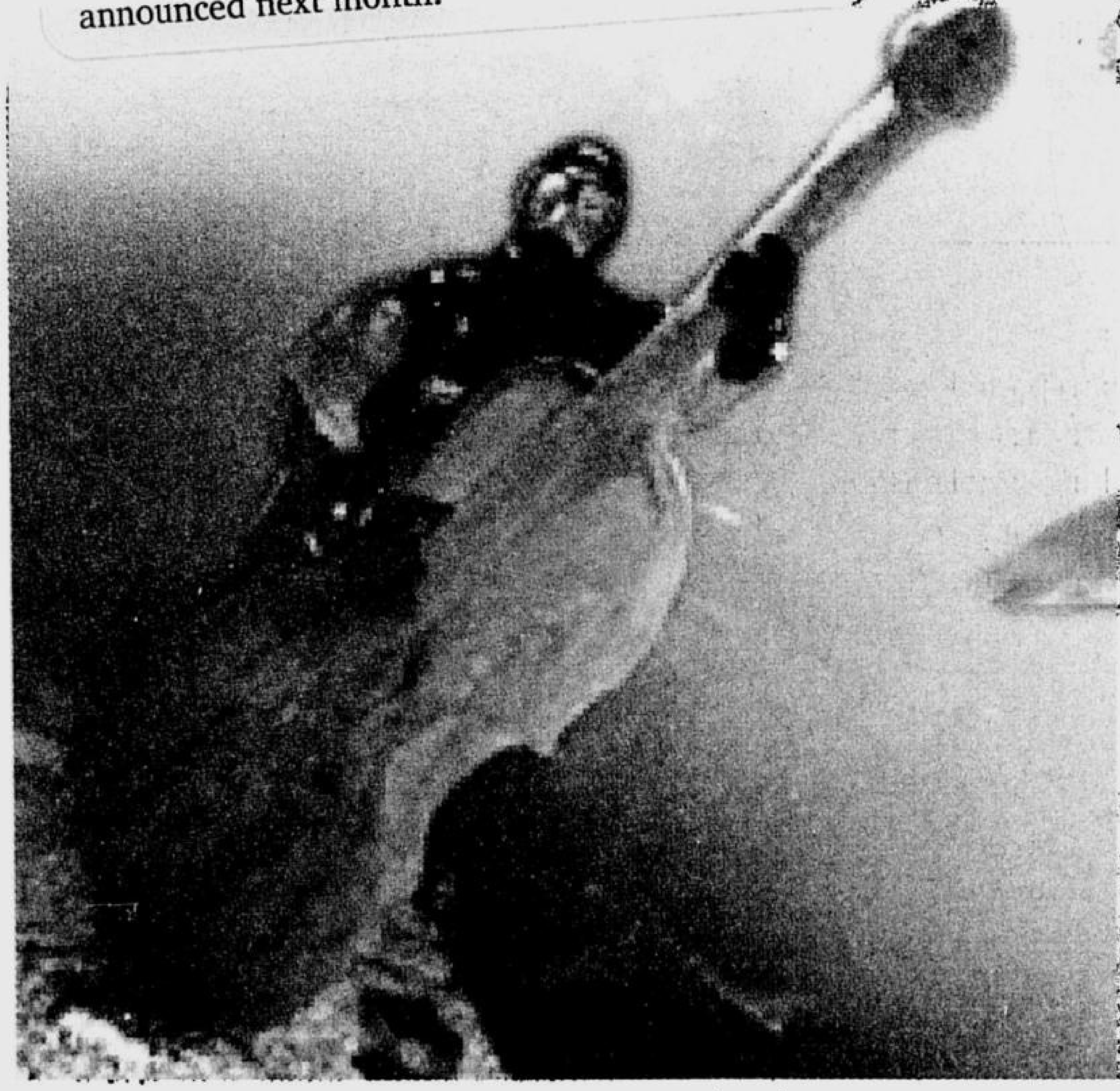
Pooch Protector

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Kelly Davis of West Bath, Maine, is shown in front of the Statehouse in Augusta, Maine in the United States. Kelly is attempting to change a Maine law prohibiting her from fund-raising for bulletproof vests to protect police dogs. She testified last week before her state's legislature officials. Results are expected to be announced next month.

AP

World Scope





Serenading Sharks

AN AQUARIUM curator poses with a model of a cello in a tank full of tope in Birmingham's National Sealife Center. The fish—small sharks that swim in British waters—are were played Barry White recordings on Valentines Day. Research from the Rowland Institute in Massachusetts, USA, showed that fish display similar responses to music as humans. The center hopes the music will induce the sharks to breed.

AP

Workshops

SUMMER FUN. Whachow! Don't want to spend summer moping about at home? Here's a list of stuff you can do at the Philippine Women's University-Total Wellness and Fitness Center: swimming, martial arts, painting, cartoon drawing, sketching, voice lessons, guitar, violin, piano lessons, yoga and meditation, baking, ballet, jazz, modern and Hawaiian dance. Hurry, it starts on March 1. Call up 524-2609 and 526-8421 local 142.

HYAAH! BOREDOM BE GONE!

FREE LEARNING CAMP. What do you do in a learning camp? Well, at the Sacred Heart School Sun Valley, you'll be dancing and singing and doing all kinds of arts and crafts projects—all for free. Last day is today. If you like the idea, call up Sacred Heart School at 823-1348 or 776-0312 and look for Ms Mary Rose. The school is at 390 Sun Valley Drive, Sun Valley Subdivision in Parañaque City.

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

POET IN YOU. Are you a Balagtas-wannabe? Check out this seminar on Filipino poetry writing. The "Panimula ng Panulaang Pilipino" will be held on March 3 at the Earthlite Center in COD Bldg., Cubao, Quezon City. For details call 0919-6318749 or 428-5041 (after 6 p.m.).

Activities

ARTS MONTH. Check out the Ibarang Arts Festival at the National Arts Center in Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna. This month of music, dance art exhibits, book launchings, film showings and dance and theater performances—all by young artists of the Phil. High School for the Arts—starts on Feb. 6. For inquiries, call up (049) 536-2862 or (049) 536-5972.

Museum Moments

LAFF & LEARN. Watch ventriloquist Ony Carcano and his amusing band of puppets as they teach the importance of proper nutrition. That's today at 10 a.m. and on Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. Katawan Ko Theme Room, Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila. Call 523-1797 to 98 for more info.

THIS DUDE BESIDE ME CAN GET SO ANNOYING!

CopyCat

(from page 1)

unique because not only genetics contribute to an animal's markings, but also conditions in the womb.

Pet Cloning

Westhusin's efforts were funded by Sperling's Genetic Savings & Clone, set up with the intent of helping people clone their pets.

Researchers worry about the health of clones. Many cloned farm animals reportedly are healthy and normal once they survive pregnancy and birth. But the clones often have abnormal placentas, which can lead to an abnormally large fetus that often dies.

And Japanese scientists reported this month that most of the mice they cloned died young of liver and lung problems. Experts suggest that the cloning technique used is key to getting a healthy animal.

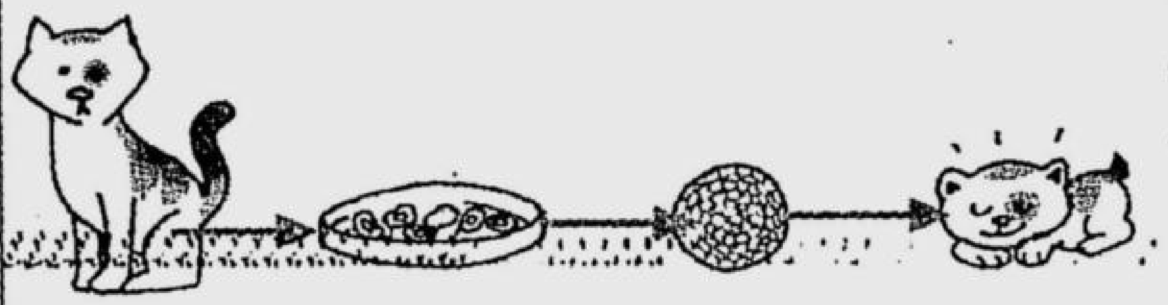
Reuters

Hey kids, what do you think of this scientific development? Is it wrong or right? Send your opinion to ji@inquirer.com.ph

How was the kitten cloned?

Westhusin's team said the kitten was cloned from a cumulus cell. These cells nurture the developing eggs in a female's ovary and have been used to clone other animals as well, as they seem particularly adaptable to the process.

It took the researchers 188 tries to get just one kitten. They got 82 embryos but only one cat got pregnant, with a single kitten. Westhusin said it is not clear how easy it will be to clone cats.



Speak Your Mind!

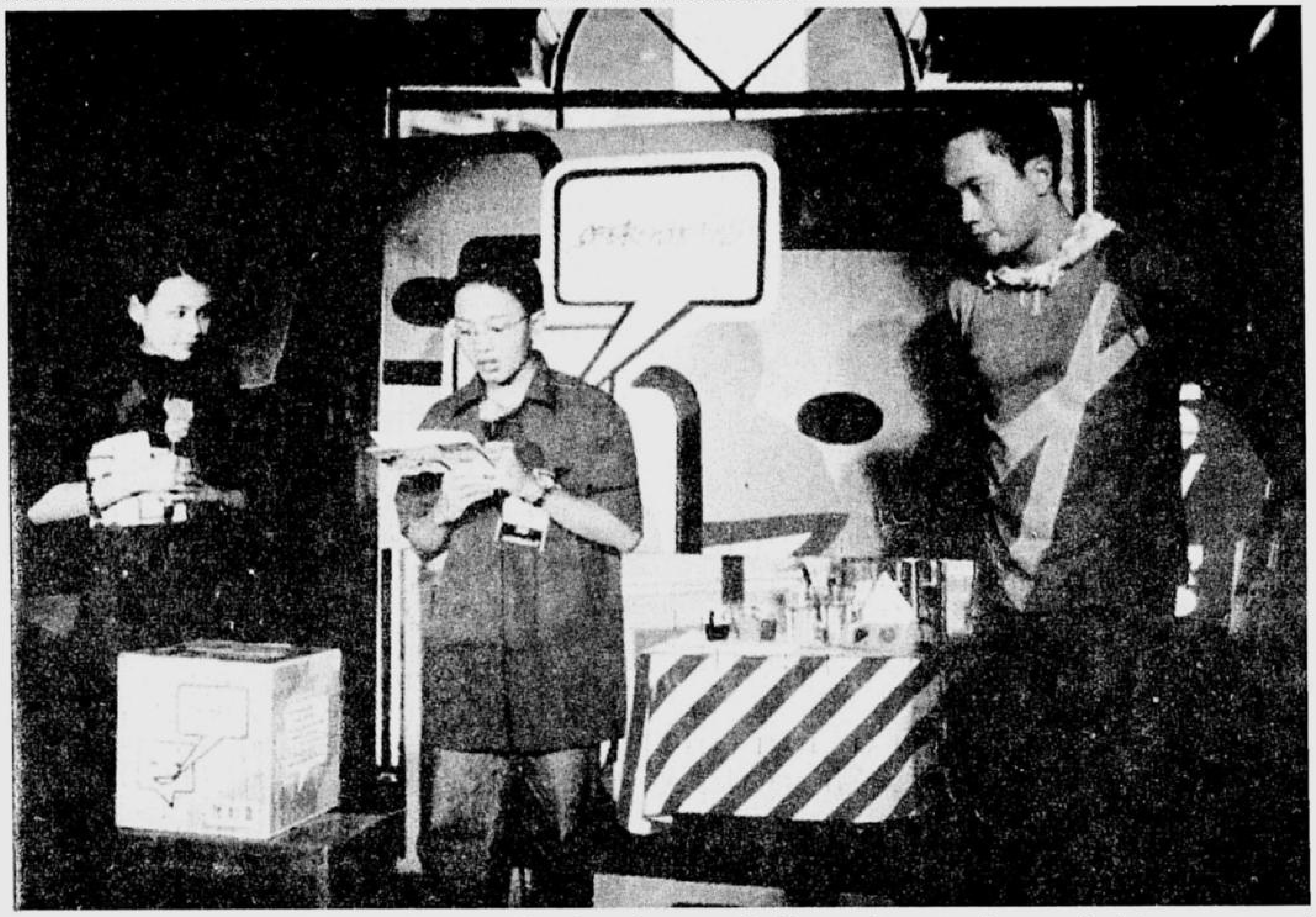
YOUNG people 25 years old and below can express themselves in a new campaign called "Speak Your Mind." Share your thoughts on the future, voice your concerns and exchange views on world issues. Get together with young people from 11 other Asian countries in 11 interactive "speak Your Mind" websites.

Contest

If you're lucky, you might get picked to represent the country along with 11 other young people to present the Asian Youth Charter to the United Nations Special Session on Children. This will be in New York on May 8-10. The Charter will help guide policy makers and others working with Asia's children and youth.

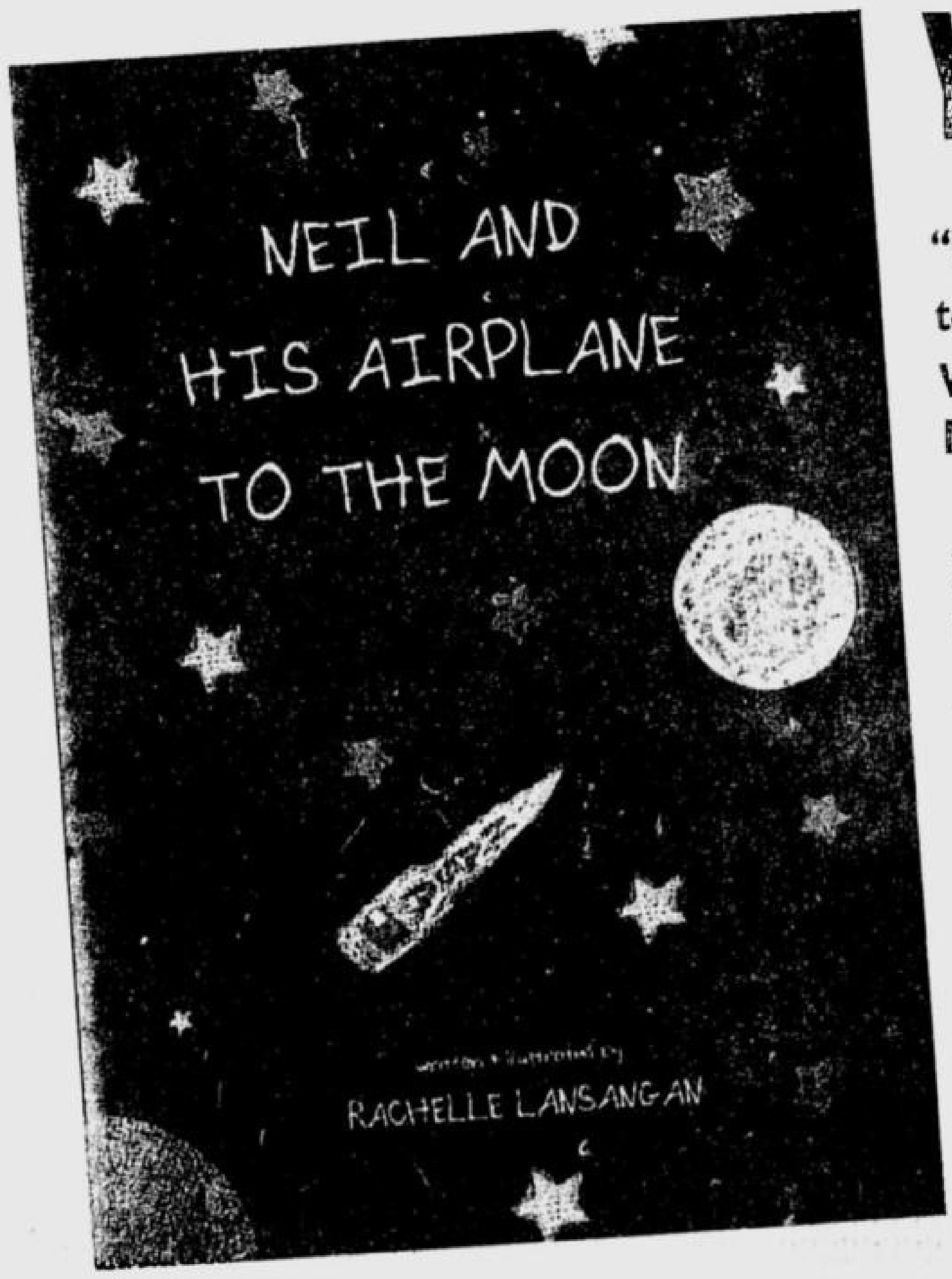
Contestants are asked to think of words that "UN" could stand for. You are also asked to describe what they would do to make the world a better place for young people.

Submit your entries via the "Speak Your Mind" websites and write them on postcards available from any Levi's store in the Philippines.



MY ENTRY IS... Young journalist Lephargy Gellena (center), reads his postcard during the launch of "Speak Your Mind" in Manila. MTV VJs Anna Shire (left) and TJ Manotoc (right) emceed the press launch.

Surf It! **More Info:** http://www.unicef.org/noteworthy/speak-your-mind/
Join!: http://www.mtvasia.com/Partner/SpeakYourMind/Microsite/



Yummy Colors

"Neil and His Airplane to the Moon"
Written and Illustrated by Rachelle Lansangan

Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS

DID you know that we roaches just love eating watercolor pigment? Hehe, I love great art, but sometimes I just can't resist making a trip to a grade school art room and snacking a bit on some student art tacked on the walls. Some teacher caught me one time and now he's put up wanted posters with my mug on it. Oh, well.

I was hanging about the Junior Inquirer office one day when a lady walked in and gave the editor a copy of an art activity story book. It's called "Neil and His Airplane to the Moon." It was actually Rachelle Lansangan, the author.

She asked for me of course. But I've told my editor, Ms Vizcarra, that she can't reveal my family name lest those legions of art teachers ask for my wee little head.

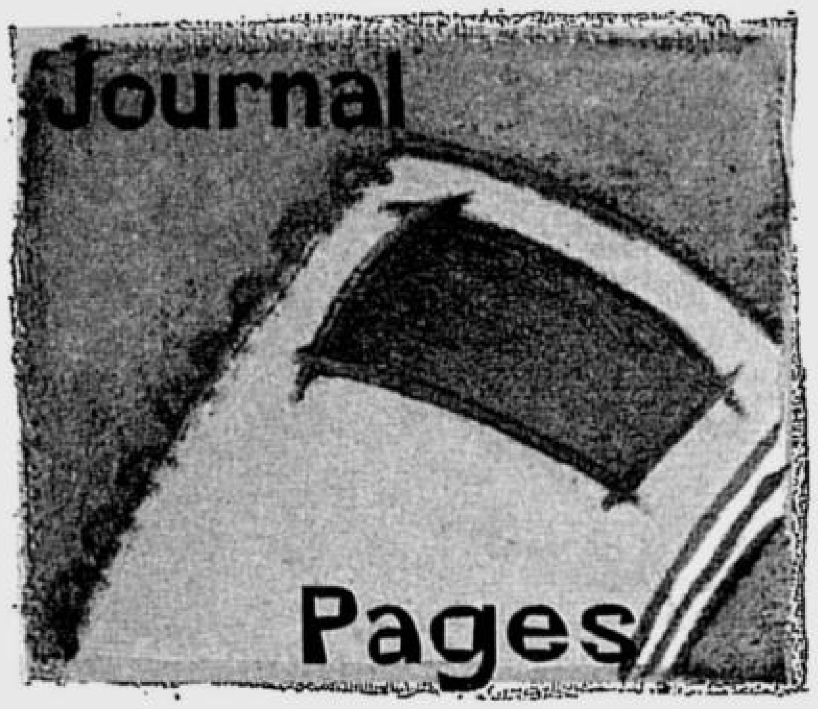
Anyway, after she left, I immediately flew to Ms Vizcarra's desk to get first digs at the book.

Drats! It wasn't on watercolor art!

It's all about crayon resist art. You know, draw a picture. Then dunk a brush in fountain pen ink (Ouch, won't that be expensive?) and brush it over the whole area.

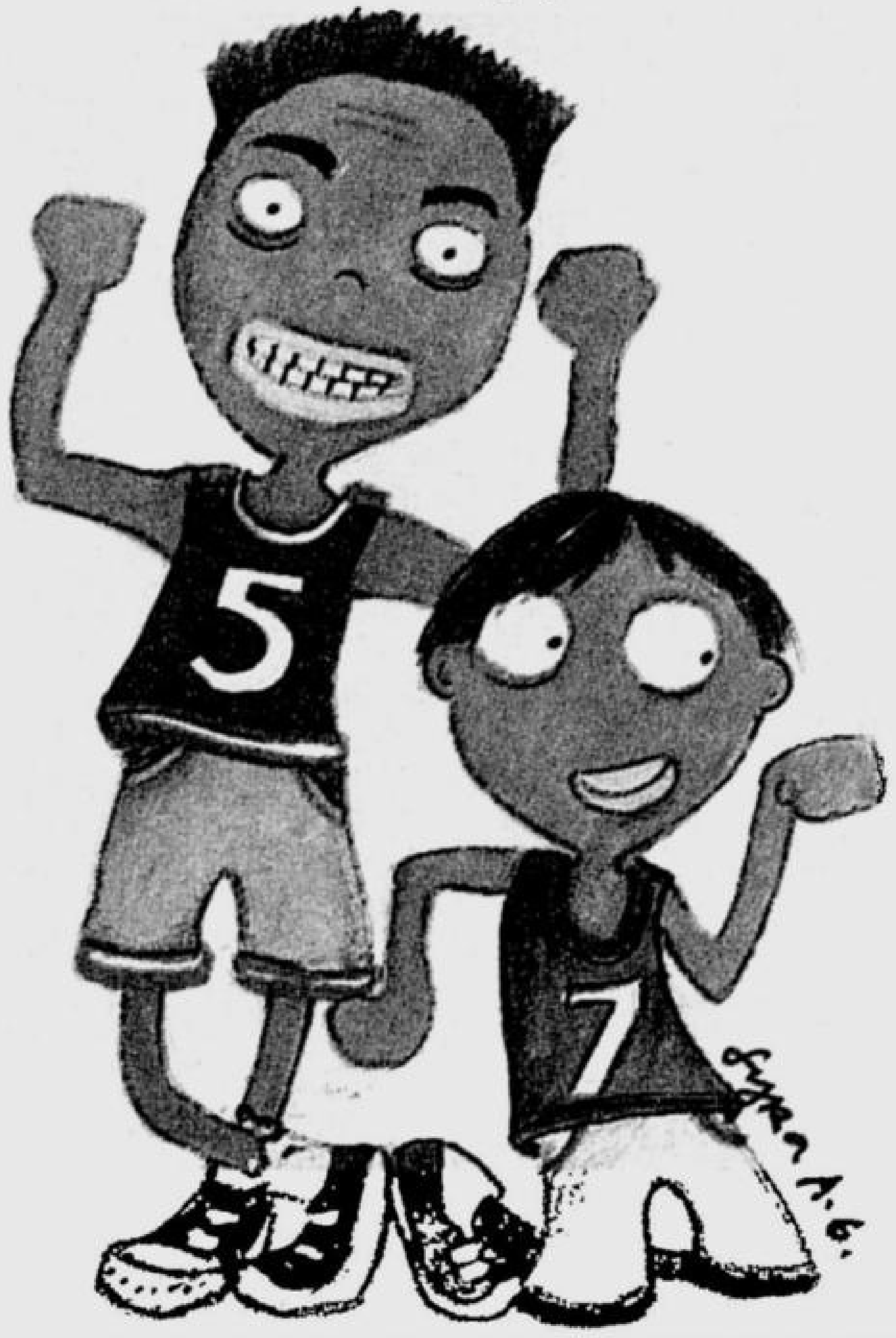
The whole book is done in crayon resist and it's all about Neil Armstrong's trip to the moon.

It's a good book to have for a classroom art activity or when you and your ma and pa are looking for something to do. There's a "how-to-do-it" section at the back that's really useful. The book will be available in major bookstores soon and is published by Inyan Publishers, Manila.



My Section

By Lloyd Gerald A. Castillo
San Beda College, Manila



IT'S been nine months since classes started. I remember the first time I met my new section. I was excited but I was also afraid and nervous because I could only recognize a few familiar faces.

I also remember feeling so shy about raising my hand for recitation. One of my classmates was always teasing me. But, as time went by, I felt more sure about myself and made a lot of friends among my classmates.

I like the feeling of oneness and unity in the section during intramurals and other class competitions.

Imagine my surprise when the class elected me president. I was so happy!

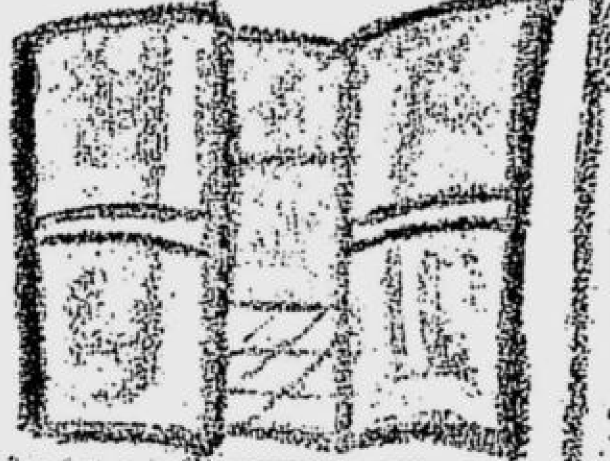
One thing that I am very proud of is that almost all my classmates are athletes or varsity players for our school. We have one swimmer (Mico); two chess masters (Kris and Jake); one football star (Beloy); seven track runners (Franco, Kenneth, Karlo, Lec, Paul, Cocoy, and yours truly) and eight basketball players (Mark, Jaycee, Calger, Yuri, Nikko, Jan, VL and Carl).

All of us are just crazy about what we do. I hope, pray and wish that we will all be able to play for the national team in the future and bring home awards and achievements for our country.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



Save the Dolphins

I AM sure that most people really, really like dolphins. And I am more certain that a good number of you would love to go and see these wonderful creatures "perform" and entertain you.

It happens that there is now a marine park in Subic Bay called Ocean Adventure, and maybe many would be willing to pay the whopping P400 just to be able to watch it.

But I'm telling you, what you will see in that so-called "Ocean Adventure" is only a flashy facade. You will only see the cute dolphins swim, leap, and dive looking like they're actually happy and smiling. But you don't know what goes on behind the scenes.

Dolphin-show business, like any other business, isn't all glamour. It has a deadly price, which the dolphins are forced to pay. The poor dolphins are kept in captivity, in tanks which are virtual prisons. They are kept away from their natural habitat and torn away from their families. Their natural animal instincts disappear because of their lifestyle in captivity.

We can all learn about these animals in less destructive ways. Please think twice before you patronize marine parks like Ocean Adventure.—**BERNICE BAUTISTA**, 15, Taytay, Rizal

KIDS FOR ANIMAL LIBERATION
FREE THE DOLPHINS

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Voices from the Sea

Story by Mandy Zhou
Illustrations by Paolo Lim

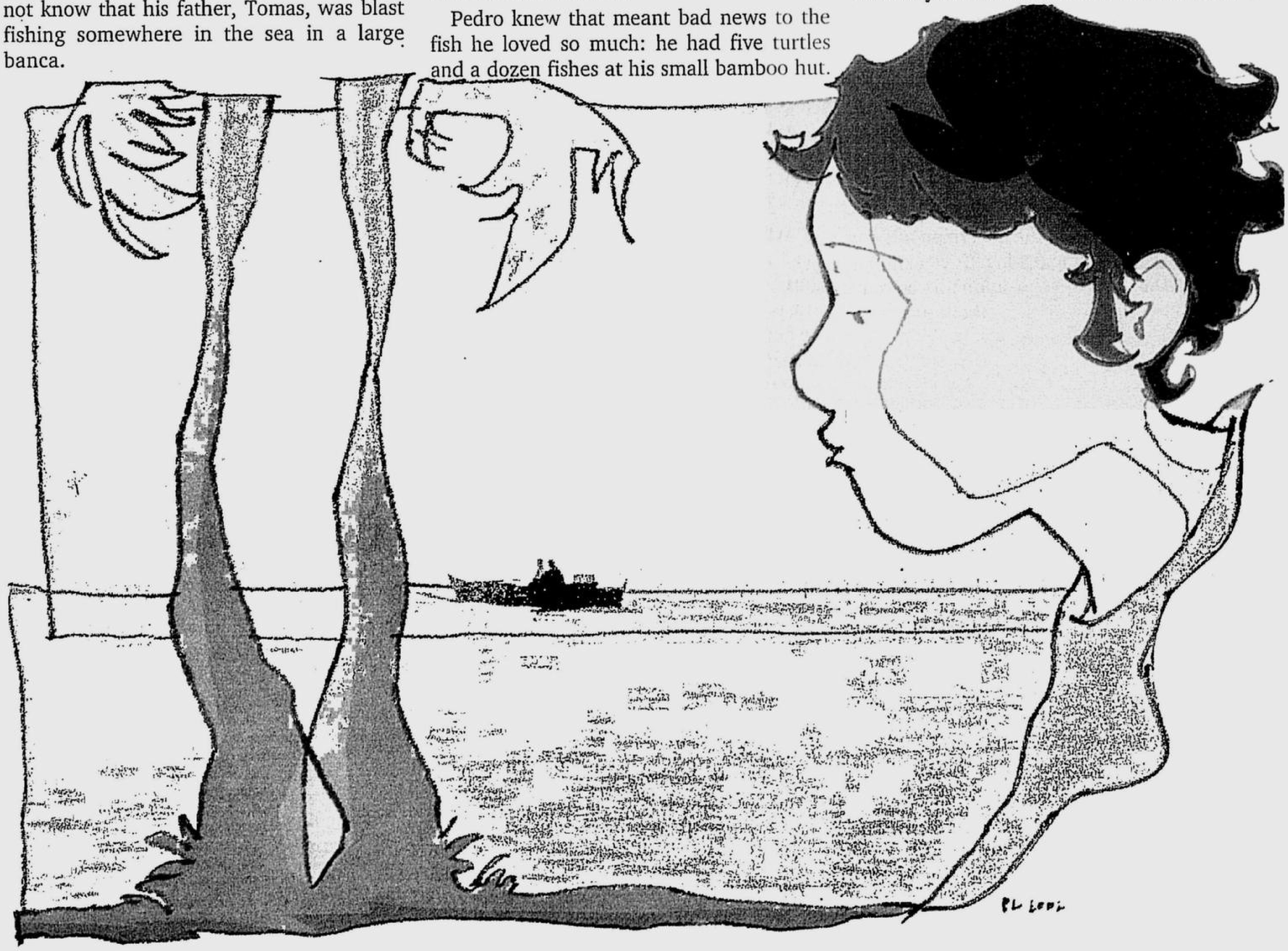
THERE weren't many fish left in the seas of Batangas. Every now and then, a big boom would be heard. But Pedro, a plump 12-year-old, was having too much fun playing with his friends on a sandy beach. He did not know that his father, Tomas, was blast fishing somewhere in the sea in a large banca.

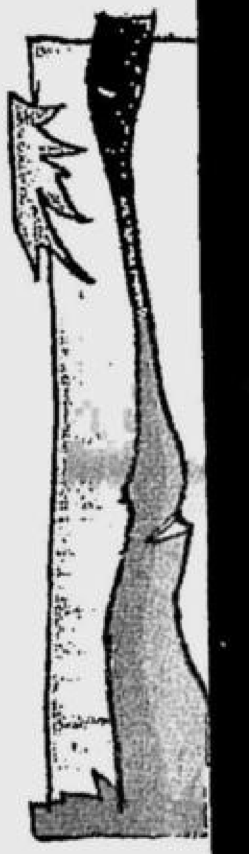
Pedro was short for his age, though handsome, and his black hair was curly, his round, black eyes always innocent-looking no matter what mischief he had done.

Pedro thought his father must be under a coconut tree mending his nets, or maybe somewhere out at sea laying out large nets with other fishermen.

Pedro knew that meant bad news to the fish he loved so much: he had five turtles and a dozen fishes at his small bamboo hut. But right now, he could think only of being with his friends in the hot July sun. The playmates spotted a large brown crab crawling toward them and they ran toward it, all excited.

DEEP down in the sea, schools of fishes swam by an occasional dead coral. Teresa, a





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leader of one school of fish, looked worried. She had realized how their numbers have been getting smaller and smaller. There was a time, hundreds of schools passed by one another on the ocean floor. There were so many. The schools glided by looking like great, luminescent curtains of silver dots. Soon, her child Maria joined her.

"What will become of us?" Maria asked. "Soon there will be no fish left."

"Ma," Maria continued, "What can we do? We can't just go up to the fishermen and say, 'We want you to stop fishing.' If we could go and tell them, they still wouldn't listen to us. The fishermen always want their own way."

"Some would listen," sneered Clara, another one of Teresa's children. Clara was ruthless and likes to whine. She had no friends, and everyone was cold toward her. "And anyway, why shouldn't they catch fish?" Clara sneered. "It would be fine and empty if I were the only one left. The fishermen would be sure to spare me. I'm much too pretty to be caught."

"Will you stop that!" snapped Teresa.

The fishes argued on. They tittered and bubbled as they joked, laughed and sang.

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HOWEVER, in Tomas' boat, there was nothing to laugh about. Tomas, ready to set off the dynamite, was counting "5, 4, 3, 2..." when suddenly it exploded in his hand.

Tomas lay in the banca, wounded and bleeding. Tomas watched a fellow fisherman set off the dynamite, not learning from what happened to him. There was a deafening bang, and silence fell. Fish suddenly froze and floated away, as most of them, including Clara, were killed in the explosion.

Just then, the sea's angry waves cried along with the fish. The sea seemed like it was screaming and shouting.

On the beach, Pedro heard a curious thing. Was it just his imagination or did the sea just say "Leave the fishes alone!" Pedro's thoughts ran wildly, wondering what had occurred.

He knew by instinct that something dreadful must have taken place, and wondered frantically if his father was all right. Desperate, he ran home. As he neared the shore near their hut, he saw his father's boat slowly coming to the shore.

When he came upon the limp form of his father, Pedro knew the dynamite had caused his father's accident. He ran home and yelled for help.

AT THE HOSPITAL, Tomas was treated but doctors could not save his arm. When he regained consciousness, he saw that Pedro was there by his side. Pedro tried to ask with a quiver in his voice. "What happened?" But Tomas found that he couldn't answer. He shook his head and went to sleep.

When Tomas awoke again, he found himself almost back to normal inside. He could already talk without much difficulty, and he answered his son's questions. "I was blast fishing with some other fishermen. But the dynamite exploded in my hand. It was a big mistake."

"But why blast fish, Papa?" Pedro argued. "Why not find some other job: something that isn't harmful to nature. The dynamite is poisonous, as my teacher told me again and again. When people eat the fish or drink the water, they will get cancer. Blast fishing adds even more damage to the already polluted sea. Can't you just try normal fishing?"

Tomas thought this over in his mind. At first, he wanted to protest. Blast fishing was such an easy way to fish. However, after a while, a long while, he began to see the truth in Pedro's words. Indeed, he began to see that blast fishing was harmful to nature. And it had even done harm to him: when the dynamite exploded in his hand.

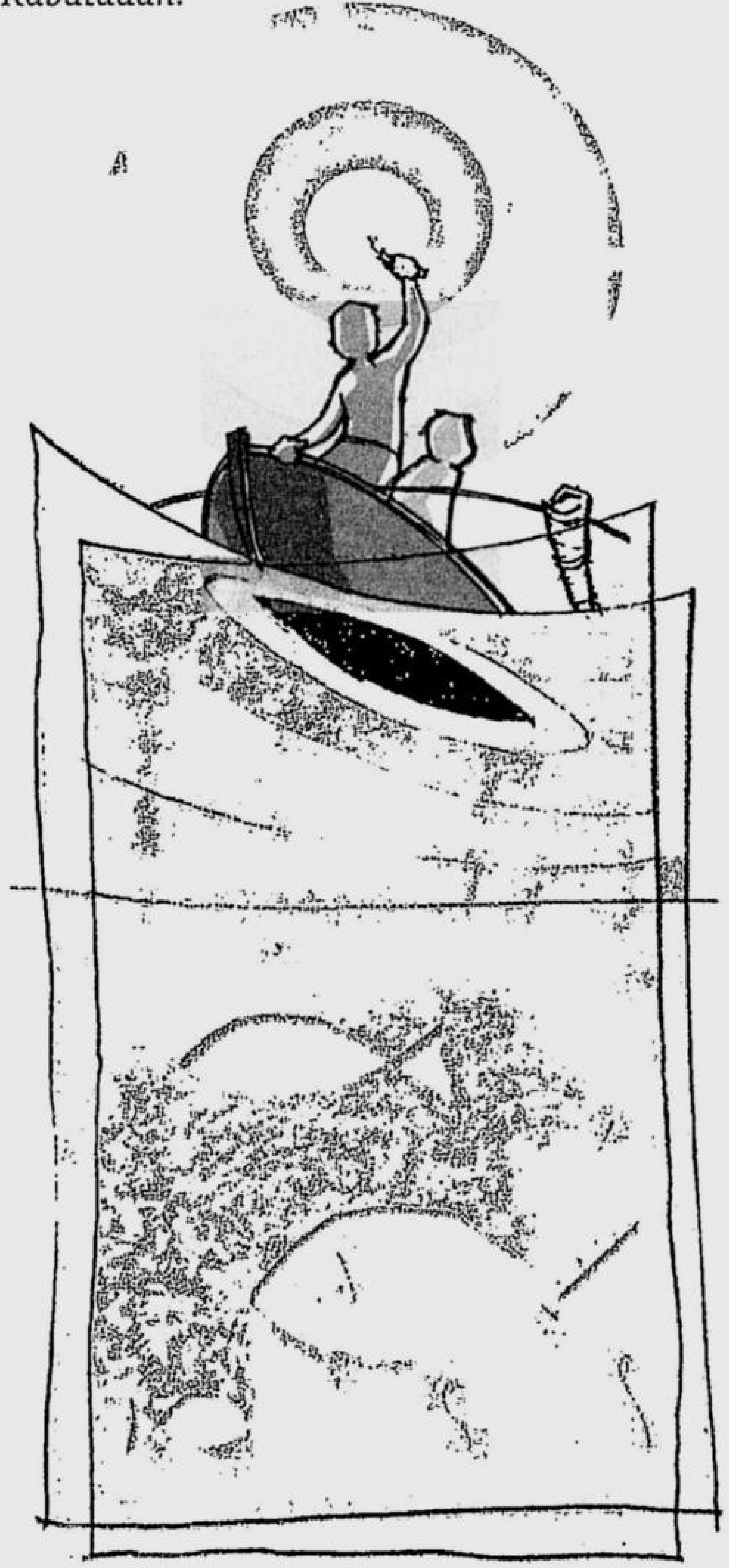
"All right, I'll never go blast fishing again," he told his son. "Even if I am well enough to do so. I now understand that it kills the fishes in the sea. I think you're right; I can just do normal fishing."

He continued, "And I will try to get my pal Miguel to tell the other fishermen—they always listen to him, and he's the only one who would listen to me."

At least from Tomas—and hopefully all of his fellow fishermen—Pedro would never have to hear the phrase, "I'm going blast fishing," again.

Mandy *was born in China on May 4, 1991. She migrated to the Philippines at the age of one and a half. A Grade 5 student at International School Manila, Mandy has enjoyed playing the piano and listening to concerts ever since she can remember. Writing and reading are great hobbies to her. Sometimes she is so taken by a book that she forgets what is happening in real life.*

Paolo *is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataaan.*



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A Young Pavarotti's Dream

Classical singing is Angelo Rivera's type of thing

By Margaux Ortiz

TEN-YEAR-OLD Manuel Angelo Rivera is just like any other tireless boy his age. He keeps himself busy with basketball after school hours and plays engineer with his Lego as soon as he gets home.

It's a little surprising though, how such an active boy loves classical music and is fond of singing classical songs, Pavarotti-style of course.

"I used to listen to pop songs when I was little," says the fourth-grader from Community of Learners. "But because my dad loves classical and opera music interpreted by Luciano Pavarotti and Andrea Bocelli, I soon discovered how soothing and beautiful classical music really is." Pavarotti and Bocelli are both very famous Italian tenors.

Angelo's family, at first unaware of his interest in singing, soon learned of his talent when they were asked to attend a school program in which Angelo was going to perform onstage.

"When my teacher asked who wanted to participate in the program, I volunteered without hesitation," he grins, "and soon enough I was onstage wearing my Pavarotti costume."

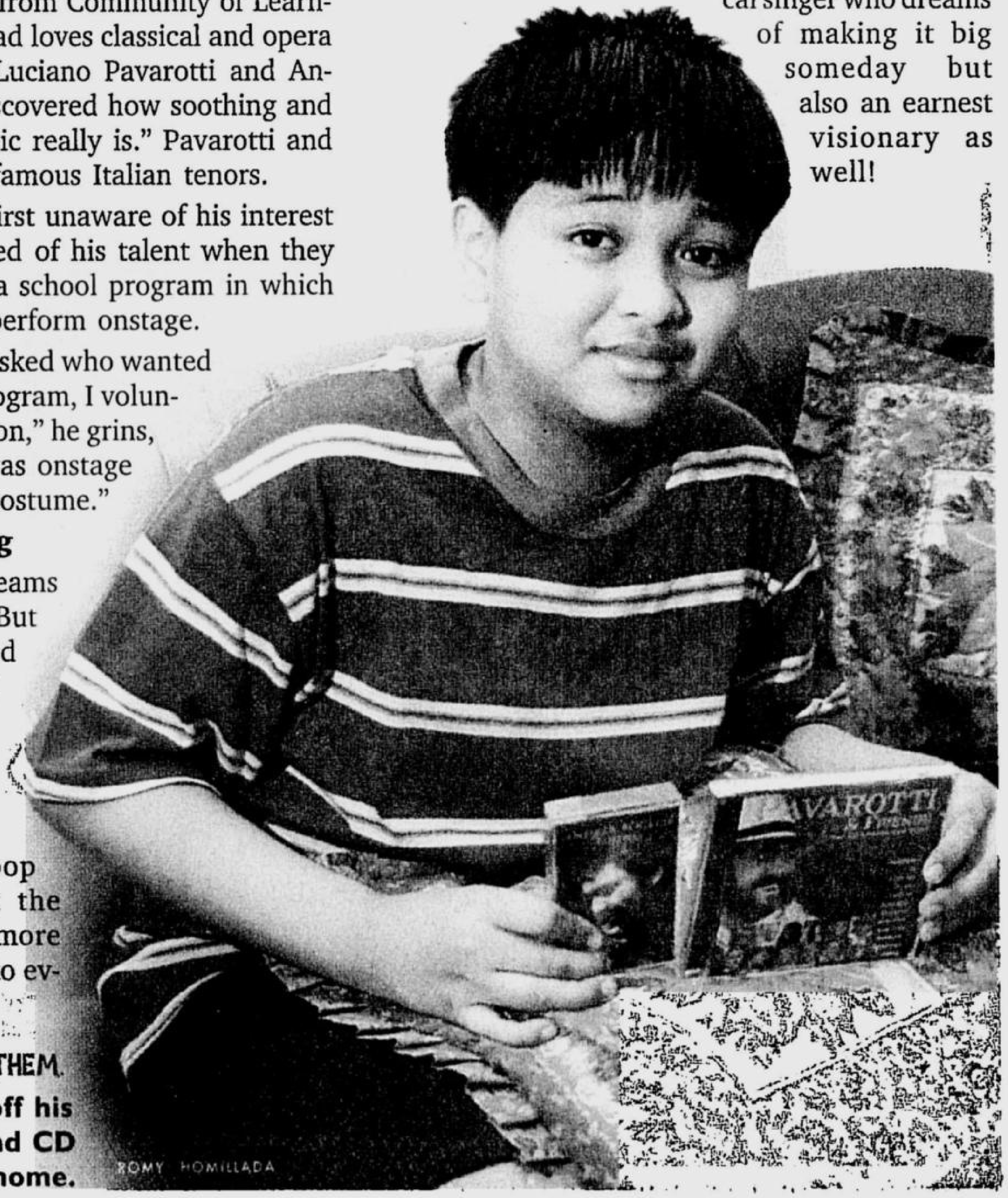
More singing

Someday, Angelo dreams of becoming a singer. But not just any singer, mind you. He has this grand vision of infusing pop and classical tunes to create a new kind of music.

"We know that pop songs sound almost the same but they are more catchy and appealing to everyone," Angelo relates. "Classical music, on the other hand, has fewer listeners than pop and is clearly less appreciated."

He adds that combining both kinds of music would appeal to a larger audience because it would have both the charisma of pop and the spirituality of classical music. Angelo is also hopeful that if his dream pushes through, people would eventually broaden their musical tastes and learn to appreciate all kinds of music, from pop to classical to rock.

It turns out that Angelo isn't just a young classical singer who dreams of making it big someday but also an earnest visionary as well!



LIKE THEM.
Angelo shows off his favorite tape and CD at home.

ROMY HOMILLADA

R U'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate:______________________
____

Age:______________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at______________________
____
____

and studies at______________________
____

Her/his contact number is:
____

Sender's Name:______________________
____

Sender's Age & School:______________________
____

Sender's Address:______________________
____

Sender's Contact No.______________________
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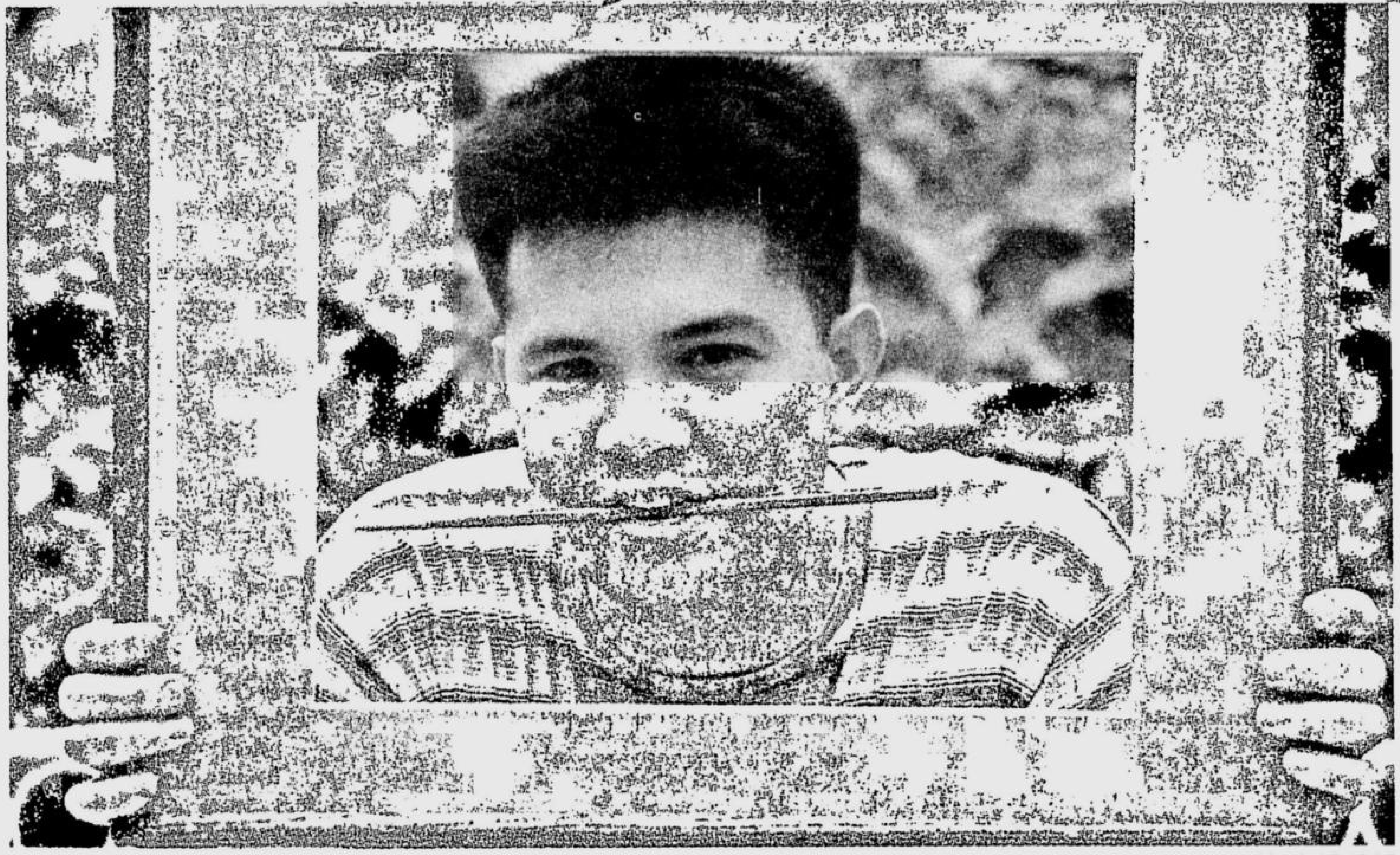


JOAN BONDOC

BETTER AND BETTER. Keep on drawing, Jason says.

The Wonderful World of Jason Moss

This children's book illustrator is a proud "graduate" of Sesame Street

By Mae Astrid Tobias

IT must be really cool to have Jason Moss as an uncle. Not only do you get copies of the children's books he illustrates for Christmas but also you get to see them even while he is in the process of creating them.

You see, Jason Moss is a really prolific children's book illustrator. He has drawn a total of seven books like "Alamat ng Sibuyas," "Fish for Two" and "Ay, May Bukbok ang Ngipin ni Ani." That is not counting the numerous poems and stories he illustrated right here in the pages of JUNIOR INQUIRER.

For him, the challenge of being a children's book illustrator is keeping his audience interested. "The challenge is to keep children flipping the page," he explains. "There are some kids who are lazy to read. Sometimes, when they buy books, they want to see the illustrations. If they keep flipping the pages, if they're interested and they like it, at least, you know they will get to read it."

A Kiddie Board of Judges

Jason has a lot of nephews and nieces who sometimes come over his house to watch him work. Most of them ask him when his next book is coming out but some are eager to learn about the publishing process like what happens to the illustration after he is done with them.

Often, he would also show them his works as soon as he finishes to see their reactions. . ."They are the best critics," Jason notes.

Fun Neighborhood

As for source of inspiration, Jason shares that his childhood experience is the best. "I literally grew up in Sesame Street," he remembers. There used to be a street in Jason's neighborhood where kids of different nationalities lived. He had Canadian, Malaysian, Thai, German, American, Chinese, and Japanese playmates. He even remembers producing a puppet show with his friends when he was around seven or eight years.

Now that he is all grown up, Jason says that those times were the " most productive" and was even training in making him more creative.

As for kids who are aspiring to be like Jason Moss, here's what he has to say, "There is no fun in having clean hands. Always keep them dirty. Because that's when you know when you are really working."

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school

I nominate ________________.
He/She is _______ years old and is my____________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)__________________________;
2)__________________________;
3)__________________________;
4)__________________________;
and 5)____________________.

My nominee lives at__________
__________________________.
Give him/her a call at ________
____
or send him/her an e-mail at________________________.
By the way, I'm______________
__________________________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is _____________
__________________________.
You may call me at __________
__________________________.

JUNIORINQUIRER SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2002

¿ThinkathoN?
BY BONG BARRAMEDA

FEBRUARY Diary

FEBRUARY, let's journey back in time and test how much of a history lover you are by recalling some important events that took place in this month.

1. Where in San Juan (Metro Manila) did Corazon Aquino and Salvador Laurel take their oaths as Philippine president and vice-president on February 25, 1986?

2. To whom did Muhammad Ali lose his world heavyweight boxing title for the second time on February 15, 1978 in Las Vegas, Nevada?

o Joe Frazier
o Leon Spinks
o Ken Norton

3. On February 20, 1962, John Glenn, aboard Friendship 7, became the first man to orbit Earth. True or False?

4. What Philippine medical institution opened, appropriately enough, on Valentine's Day of 1975?

5. On February 27, 1980, Michael Jackson won his first Grammy Award for what single?

o Rock With You
o Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough
o Billie Jean

6. *Pterocarpus indicus* and *Jasminium sambac* earned national prominence on February 1, 1934, thanks to a declaration by American governor-general Frank Murphy. What are they?

7. Who made a triumphant return to Iran on February 1, 1979, after 16 years of exile?

8. The country's first Muslim senator was born in Jolo, Sulu, on February 22, 1865. Who?

o Jamalul Kiram
o Hadji Butu
o Salipada Pendatun

9. Which artistic genius died on February 18, 1564, at age 89, while working on his last sculpture, a second "Pieta," which he intended for his own tomb?

10. What "revolutionary" car was unveiled by Adolf Hitler on February 26, 1936, to rival the famous Model T of US automotive pioneer Henry Ford?

o Mercedes-Benz
o Porsche
o Volkswagen

11. Whom did a 14-year-old girl named Bernadette Soubirous claim to have seen for the first time on February 11, 1858, in a small town in southwest France?

12. Fathers Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos, and Jacinto Zamora were executed on the 17th of February of which year?

o 1862
o 1872
o 1882

Answers :

1. Club Filipino
2. Leon Spinks
3. False. He was the first American to orbit Earth—the first man to do so was Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, aboard Vostok 1, 10 months earlier.
4. Philippine Heart Center for Asia
5. "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough"
6. *Narra* and *sampaguita*, respectively
7. Ayatollah Khomeini
8. Hadji Butu
9. Michaelangelo (Buonarotti)
10. Volkswagen
11. The Virgin Mary (in Lourdes)
12. 1872

Ratings :

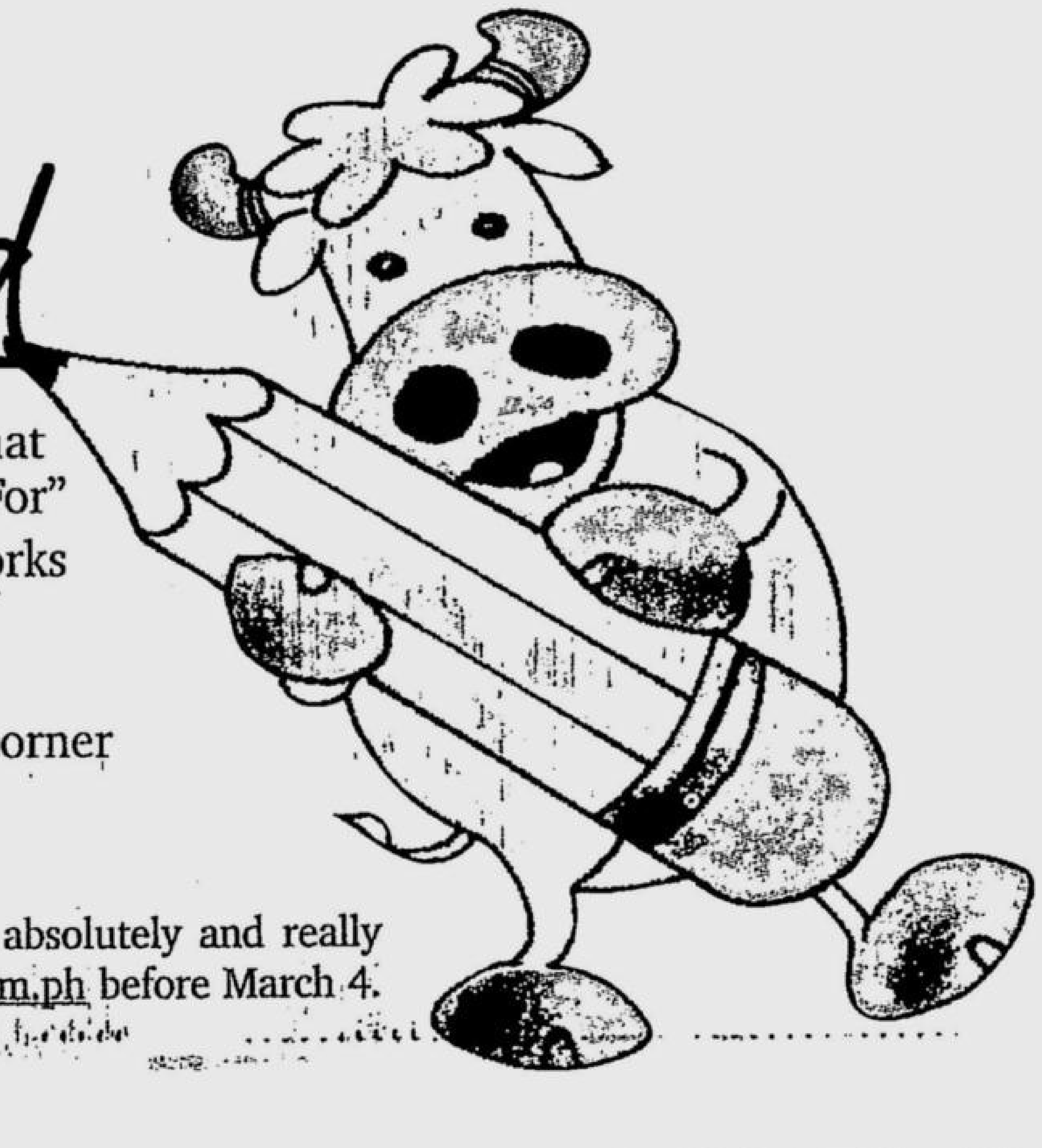
superbrain!

11-2

8 - 10

5 - 9

You Are Invited



What: A brainstorming and chatty kind of orientation on "What Kind of Short Stories for Children is JI Really Looking For"

Who: **Adult** Story Writers for Kids, especially those whose works have already been published in JI

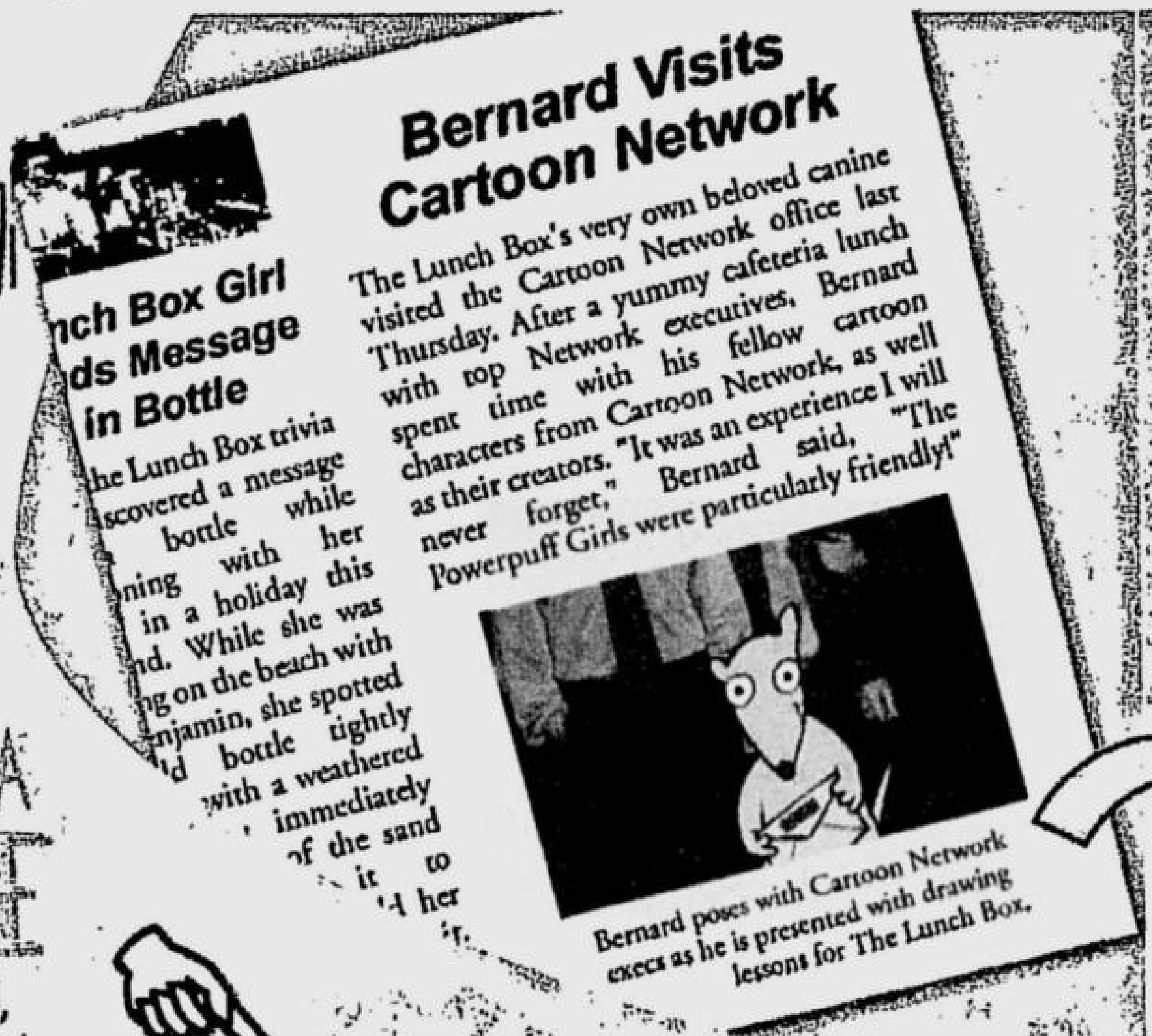
When: 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 9, 2002

Where: Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

R.S.V.P. (That's French mumbo-jumbo for "please tell us if you're surely, absolutely and really coming.) Send your name, age, address and contact number to ji@inquirer.com.ph before March 4.

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa



nch Box Girl
ds Message
in Bottle

he Lunch Box trivia
scovered a message
bottle while
ning with her
in a holiday this
nd. While she was
g on the beach with
njamin, she spotted
d bottle tightly
with a weathered
immediately
of the sand
it to
d her

Bernard Visits Cartoon Network

The Lunch Box's very own beloved canine visited the Cartoon Network office last Thursday. After a yummy cafeteria lunch with top Network executives, Bernard spent time with his fellow cartoon characters from Cartoon Network, as well as their creators. "It was an experience I will never forget," Bernard said, "The Powerpuff Girls were particularly friendly!"

Bernard poses with Cartoon Network execs as he is presented with drawing lessons for The Lunch Box.

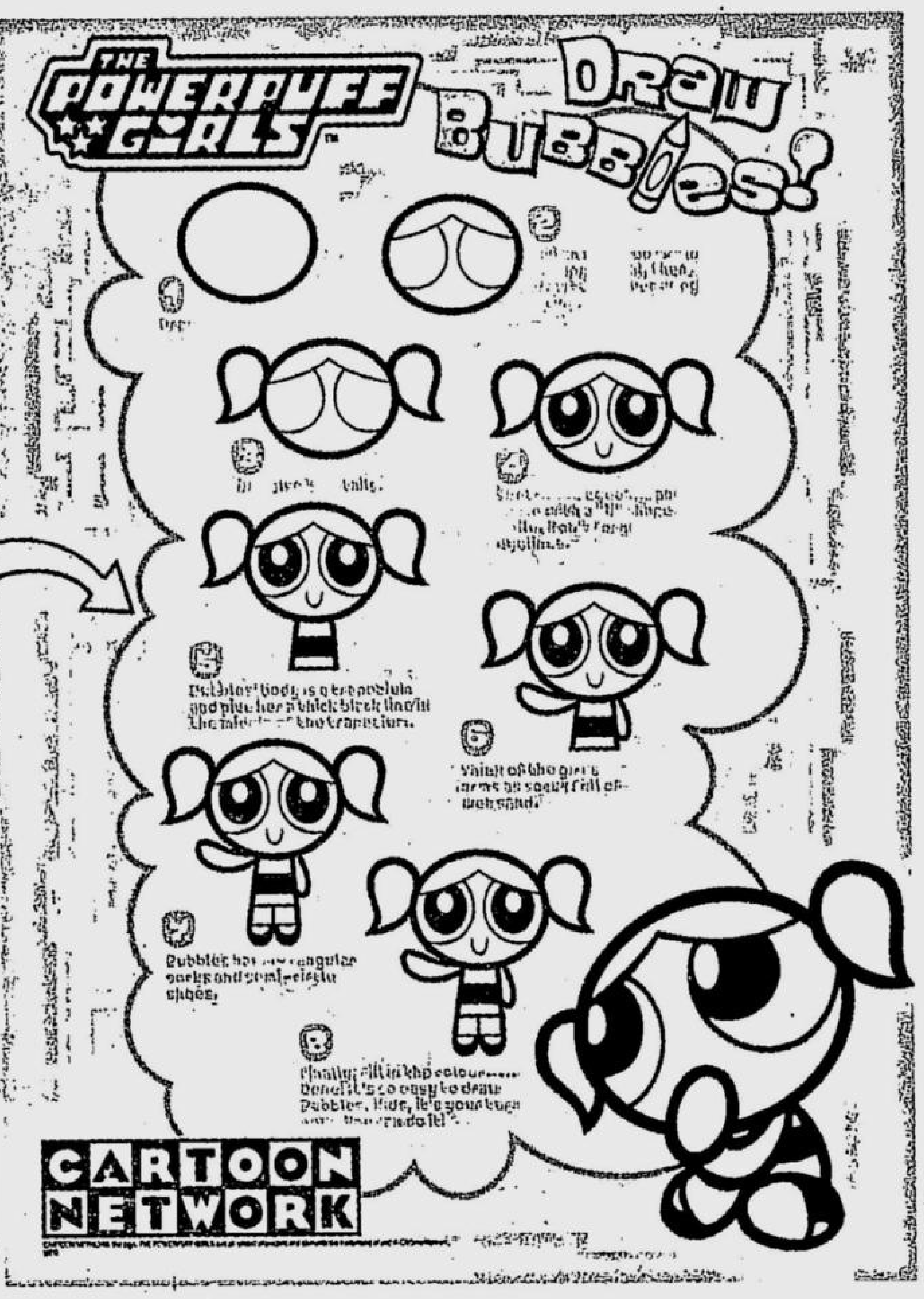
MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

While she was at the beach this weekend, Nina found this bottle with a message inside. Can you decipher what it says? Use your key!

1 2 21 12 2 20 7 19! 2 1 15 14 20 10 1 2
11 6 20 11 11 16 22 20 12 20 16 18 1 20 11.
24 15 9 16 7 19 10 1 16 10 24 15 9 26 2
5 5 1 16 8 20 16 26 15 7 19 20 12 21 9
5 10 2 6 20 17 24 10 1 20 11 20 16!

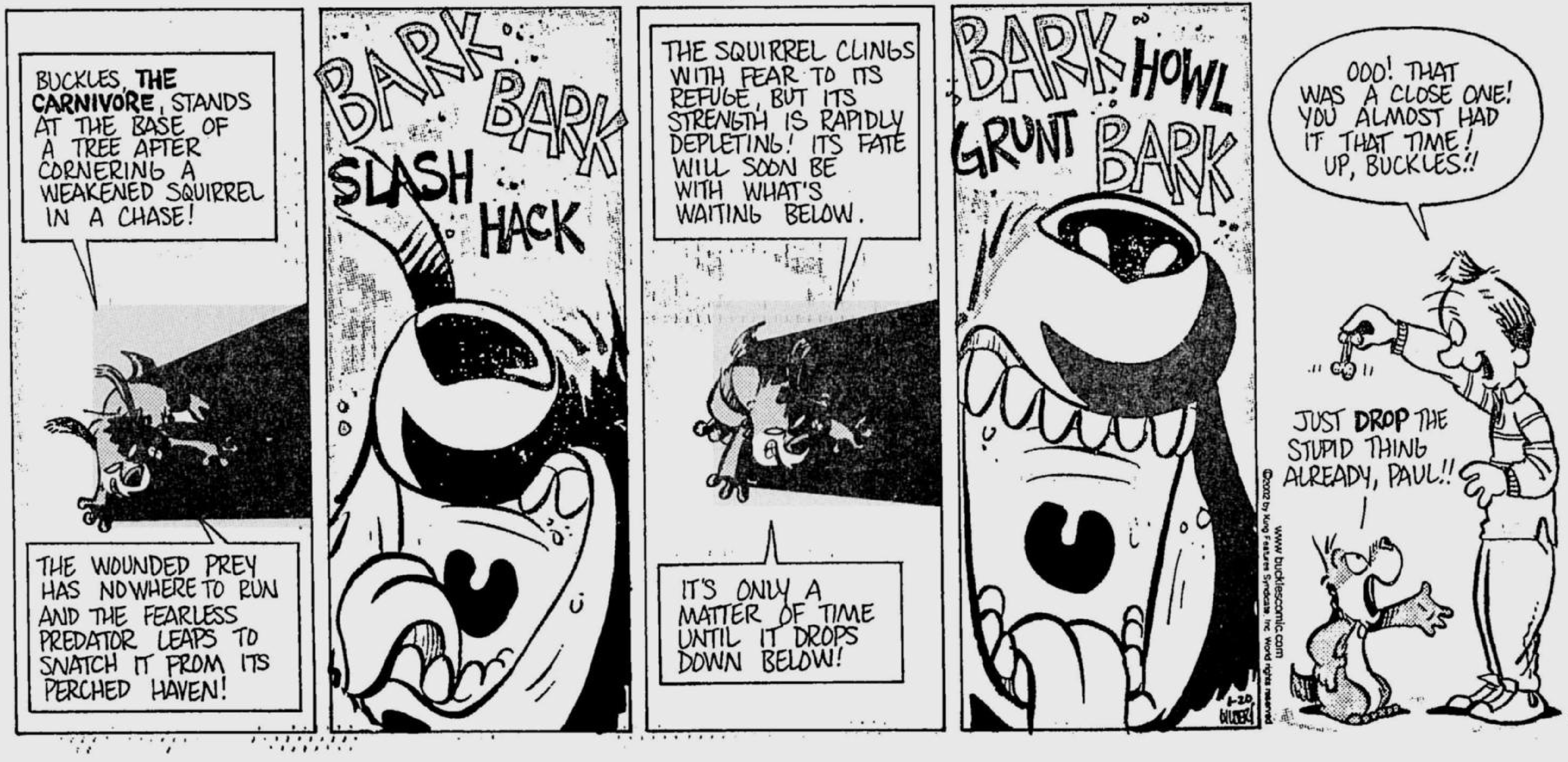
a=16 b=17 c=18 d=19 e=20 f=21 g=22 h=1 i=2
j=3 k=4 l=5 m=6 n=7 o=15 p=14 q=13 r=12 s=11
t=10 u=9 v=8 w=26 x=25 y=24 z=23

The message: Hi Friend! I hope this message reaches you and that you will have a wonderful time by the sea!


THE POWERPUFF GIRLS
DRAW BUBBLES!
CARTOON NETWORK

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


BUCKLES, THE CARNIVORE, STANDS AT THE BASE OF A TREE AFTER CORNERING A WEAKENED SQUIRREL IN A CHASE!
THE WOUNDED PREY HAS NOWHERE TO RUN AND THE FEARLESS PREDATOR LEAPS TO SNATCH IT FROM ITS PERCHED HAVEN!
BARK BARK
SLASH
HACK
THE SQUIRREL CLINGS WITH FEAR TO ITS REFUGE, BUT ITS STRENGTH IS RAPIDLY DEPLETING! ITS FATE WILL SOON BE WITH WHAT'S WAITING BELOW.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL IT DROPS DOWN BELOW!
BARK HOWL
GRUNT BARK
OOO! THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE! YOU ALMOST HAD IT THAT TIME! UP, BUCKLES!!
JUST DROP THE STUPID THING ALREADY, PAUL!!
2-20 GILBERT

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